

AESC urges backing for Palestinians

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Arab Economic and Social Council (AESC) has issued a statement here praising Arab countries' efforts to back the establishment of the Palestinian state in the occupied territories and urging all Arab states to remain committed to serving the Palestinian cause. An AESC meeting which was held at the Arab ministers of finance and economy, called on all Arab countries to help the Palestinians confront Israel's drive to devastate Arab homes and economy and to starve the Palestinian people in a bid to force them to abandon their homeland, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Ibrahim who represented Jordan at the meeting. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister said that the council recommended the Arab states of implementing the Algiers Arab summit resolutions of 1988 which called on Arab governments to facilitate the passage of Palestinian agricultural and industrial products to Arab states and foreign markets. The council has requested the State of Palestine to work out a plan in coordination with Arab states neighbouring Palestine to facilitate the passage of Palestinian products on their way to Arab and foreign markets.

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Jordan welcomes French proposal

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Friday welcomed a proposal made by French President Francois Mitterrand, current chairman of the European Community Parliament, to hold a Euro-Arab dialogue in Paris before the end of this year. In a statement to the French News Agency (AFP), Information Minister Nassef Majali said Friday that Euro-Arab dialogue had always been an Arab demand. However, he noted, "when such a proposal is made by an influential world leader, like President Mitterrand, it derives a special significance." Majali described the proposal as an excellent positive step, "which should receive the due response from the Arab World because it reflects positively on Arab issues and leads to ensuring better understanding between Europe and the Arab World." Majali praised the important role played by Europe in creating the atmosphere for finding a just solution to the Middle East question. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, he said the French proposal "constitutes a significant step" and wished that the proposed meeting take place in December, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

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Bishops barred from Beit Sahour

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Christian leaders tried Friday to take food to the West Bank village of Beit Sahour, sealed off for more than a month to crush a tax strike, but were stopped by Israeli troops.

Heads of the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian churches led a convoy of bishops and priests and three trucks of food to the mainly-Christian village. But they refused as insulting an army offer to let one car enter.

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah told Israeli Radio churchmen could not ignore the prolonged closure and confiscation of property by authorities.

"What's going in Beit Sahour is unjust — it is not acceptable to any churchman or any spiritual man who has a human conscience," he said.

Beit Sahour has been at the forefront of a tax revolt called by leaders of the 22-month-old

Palestinian uprising. The village has been ringed by troops since Sept. 22 and closed to non-residents. Goods worth thousands of dollars, including furniture and vehicles, have been seized from villagers.

An army commander named only as "Colonel D" told the radio the offer to admit only the patriarchy was to prevent trouble in the village.

Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, praised Beit Sahour's resistance in a communique Friday. It called for preachers in mosques worldwide to tell worshippers about the revolt at next Friday's prayers.

The leaflet, said the United States and Britain were enemies because they were Israel's partners.

Like the leadership of the uprising, Hamas called a general strike to mark the start of the

revolt's 24th month on Nov. 9. Strikes were also ordered on Oct. 29, Nov. 2 and Nov. 22.

Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, has been closed to outsiders much of the time since Sept. 20 when the government began confiscating property in raids aimed at breaking the tax boycott that is part of the uprising.

Roman Catholic Patriarch Michel Sabbah told reporters that the churchmen had hoped to pray in Beit Sahour and meet with the mayor.

"They (the soldiers) did not let us do our humanitarian duties," Sabbah complained.

Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I called the incident "an insult to our ranks and our rights through the ages" to worship in the Holy Land, the spokesman for the group said.

Police confirmed, that they have launched an investigation

into the fatal shooting Thursday of an 18-year-old Bethlehem youth, Nassef Karim Daamseh.

Daamseh was shot in the neck by a policeman after he refused a police order to stop, struck a policeman with his car and was pursued by a police van, police officials said.

A Palestinian witness to the shooting incident, 32-year-old Abdul Hakim Mahtasib, told the Jerusalem Post newspaper that he saw one of the policemen slap and pistol whip Daamseh and fire at close range.

"The policeman pointed his gun at the man's neck and shot him point blank," Mahtasib told the Post.

On the outskirts of the West Bank city of Hebron, Israeli occupation authorities demolished a new mosque with bulldozers Thursday.

A military source said the mosque had been built without a

permit but Palestinians said the Israeli occupation authorities had been denying their applications for four years.

In the West Bank's Ramallah hospital Mohammad Mahmoud Zalut, 22, died of head injuries sustained Thursday when he fell from a roof while fleeing soldiers in Tulkarm refugee camp, medical staff said.

At least 701 Palestinians have died in the revolt.

Troops in the Gaza Strip Friday shot and wounded Khaled Al Usbi, 14, during a clash with residents of the Jabalya refugee camp demonstrating outside the home of a youth shot dead by soldiers Thursday.

Staff at nearby Ahli hospital said Usbi was in critical condition from a stomach wound.

Troops in the strip's Al Bureij camp shot and wounded an 18-year-old protester, the hospital said.

Mubarak regrets statements by 'irresponsible' Palestinians

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak said Friday that some Palestinian officials are undermining his efforts to entice Israel to come to a negotiating table with Palestinians.

Sounding angry and frustrated, Mubarak enjoined the Palestinians to stop making conflicting statements and to forge a unified position. Otherwise, he said, peace efforts are "a waste of time."

He said Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), honour his commitments and work diligently for peace.

But the president implied that Arafat should try to restrain his officials and give the PLO "one voice."

Mubarak spoke after touring Egypt's new conference centre with President Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen, who arrived Thursday on a four-day official visit.

"I deeply regret statements by some Palestinian leaders who are not in positions of responsibility," he said.

"We are not afraid of threats... Egypt is making a very great effort for the Palestinian cause, but such statements are spoiling all our efforts. I will not say more."

"Someone called George Habash threatened... do you think these threats scare us... we are not scared," Mubarak told reporters.

Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said this month Mubarak could be assassinated like his predecessor Anwar Sadat if he tried to drag the PLO under Washington's influence.

Mubarak, who has invited Israelis and Palestinians to meet in Cairo for peace talks, expressed his "deep regret due to the conflicting statements by irresponsible Palestinian leaders."

Several hardline Palestinian groups have criticised Egypt's role in Middle East peace moves.

"Arafat respects all his obligations but other factions are making unnecessary statements which do not help the Palestinian problem," Mubarak said.

"After we agree on points, not everyone should say points from his head... those statements spoil all the efforts we are exerting," he added.

"We do not impose anything at all on him (Arafat). We talk and exchange views," Mubarak said.

Mubarak has been heavily involved in consultations with the United States, Israel and Arafat on various proposals to launch an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as a prelude to peace negotiations.

Israel rejected an Egyptian formula, but the parties now are considering a similar proposal by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. PLO officials have made con-



Hosni Mubarak

tradictory pronouncements on the Baker plan in recent weeks. PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Arafat, Rabbo and Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, chairman of the Palestine National Council, said the plan was rejected. A PLO Central Council meeting in Baghdad this month issued a communique strongly implying rejection.

Other PLO officials, including Arafat adviser Khaled Al Hassan and Cairo representative Saeed Kamal, said the organisation had taken to final position. Egypt too says that Palestinians have not rejected the proposals but want Baker to clarify it.

U.S. moves to defuse row with Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States, moving to defuse a growing row with Israel, has indicated that President George Bush would probably meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir when he visits Washington next month.

Earlier, reports both in Israel and the United States suggested that Bush might snub Shamir to demonstrate Washington's growing exasperation at delays in efforts to get Israeli-Palestinian talks under way.

The reports prompted an angry reaction from Israeli Deputy Prime Minister David Levy who said that for Bush not to meet with Shamir would be a "slap in the face of every self-respecting Israeli."

But White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Thursday there probably would be a meeting after all.

"It hasn't yet been determined or scheduled. That's probably likely, I think — it just hasn't been worked out," he said.

Fitzwater indicated that Bush would not withhold a meeting to try to force Shamir to be more flexible, saying he doubted such a tactic would accomplish anything.

It was the most definite statement by a U.S. official about the meeting. On Wednesday when asked about it, Secretary of State James Baker simply replied that he did not know the president's schedule three or four weeks in advance.

Shamir is coming to the United States on a private visit and will address a Jewish-American convention in Cincinnati on Nov. 16. But no other appointments for him have been set, the Israeli embassy said.

The United States has put forward a five-point formula designed to pave the way for talks between Israel and Palestinian representatives on elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where a Palestinian uprising has been raging for almost the past two years.

But Israel has demanded a veto over members of the Palestinian delegation to exclude leaders associated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

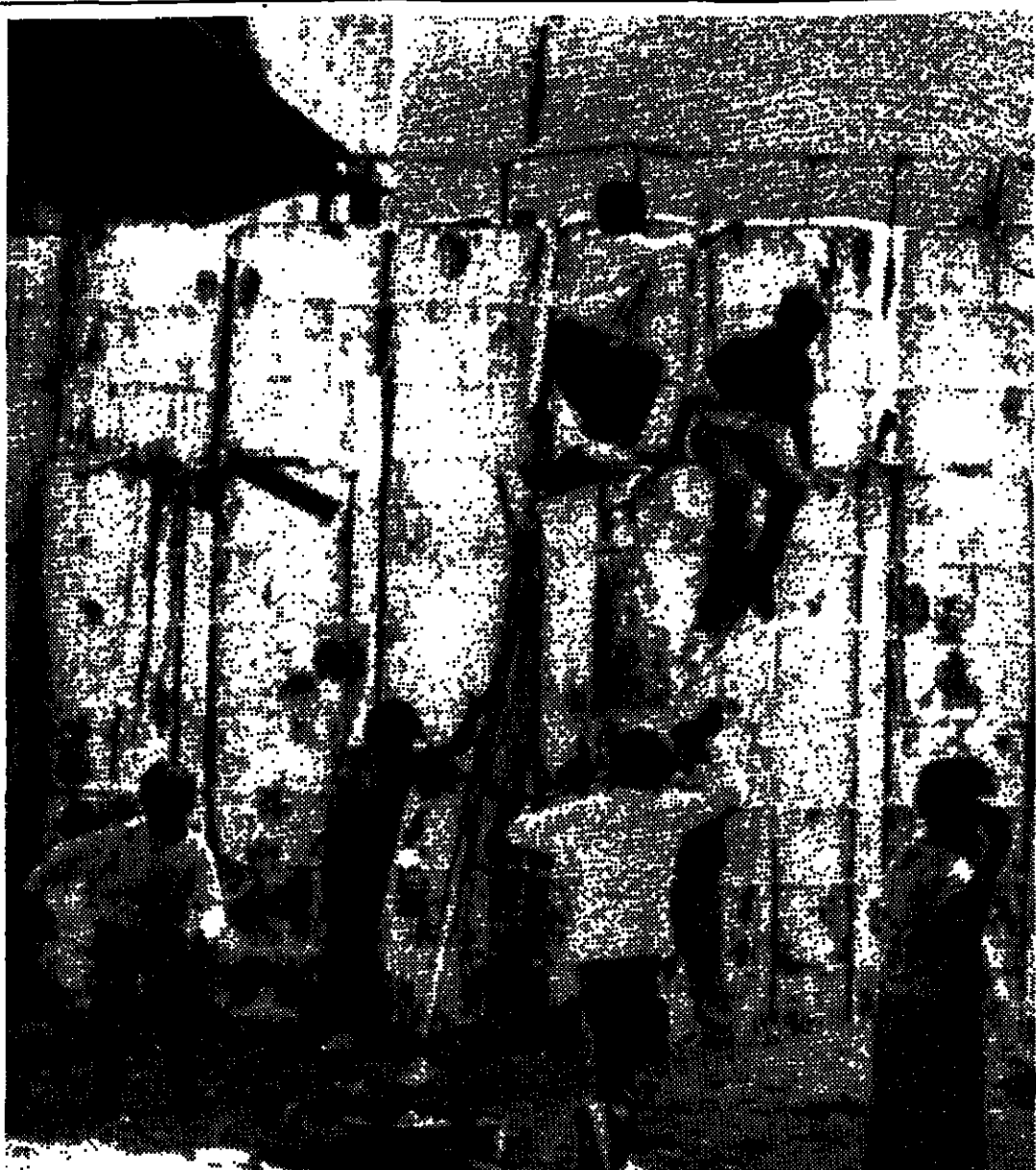
It also insists that no subjects other than the elections be raised.

Baker said Wednesday that he would review the Israeli objections but suggested that tampering with the formula to accommodate one side would prompt objections from the other and strangle the whole process in details.

Many analysts say that is precisely what Shamir is trying to do.

Baker said at a news conference that he would review the proposed changes but added:

"It would be much better if both sides would accept the five points as a general framework for moving forward, and then let's get about the business, the hard nitty-gritty business of sitting down face to face," he said.



Children in a refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip climbing a barricade while preparing to stone an Israeli patrol on the other side. Israeli troops erected the barricade to seal off one entrance to the camp.

Aoun rules out presidential election proposed by Arabs

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Army commander Michel Aoun Friday ruled out the election of a new president within a week as Arab mediators had proposed under a peace accord to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

The general also threatened to dissolve the Lebanese parliament to block the election and prevent final endorsement of the Arab League-sponsored accord.

Aoun spoke at a news conference at the shell-battered presidential palace in suburban Baabda east of Beirut shortly after his army units clashed briefly with militiamen in nearby hills.

Police said there were no casualties in the clash with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades around the mountain-top town of Souq Al Gharb, five kilometres south of Baabda in Lebanon's central mountains.

"It is impossible to elect the new president in seven days. This is illogical. The necessary conditions for a successful election should be secured first," Aoun said.

Asked whether he will dissolve parliament after voting the peace accord, he rejected, Aoun said "that's an alternative among others."

He reiterated his contention he

was not rejecting the political reforms embodied in the accord but said in English, "I cannot accept to concede the sovereignty of Lebanon."

Aoun said the public support for his stance outnumbered that of the 33 Christian parliament members who with 30 other Muslim deputies voted the peace accord.

"Maybe when they return from Saudi Arabia, they would not be able to face their supporters because they have betrayed everybody. So I will have to protect them by assigning bodyguards for them," Aoun said.

The news conference came a few hours after Aoun issued what he termed the "last call" for Lebanon's legislators to return home and discuss the peace plan.

Aoun, in an address to supporters at the palace, accused the Christian lawmakers of reckless behaviour and said, "If they persist in this behaviour, the government will use its powers."

The general, who heads a three-man military cabinet in Lebanon's splintered government, is apparently still hoping to settle the peace plan reached by 36 Lebanese legislators in the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif Sunday.

Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi met Aoun Friday.

"I talked to the general about my mission," Brahimi told reporters in the ruins of Aoun's presidential palace in east Beirut.

"All the brothers here (in Lebanon) have thoughts and views which we discuss and in the end we will arrive at the results which serve Lebanon and its future," the Algerian diplomat said.

After meeting Aoun, Brahimi consulted Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, spiritual leader of Lebanon's Christian Maronites, who Thursday welcomed the deputies' peace accord.

Brahimi praised Sfeir's position, saying "It is a stand on which Lebanon's future will be built."

The patriarch's statement highlighted the pressure on Aoun from within the Christian community. The largest Christian militia, the Lebanese Forces, and major political parties have supported the pact.

"There is no one among the officials who is less or more concerned than the other about the independence, sovereignty and dignity of Lebanon," Sfeir said, effectively rebuking the Maronite general.

'CIA has proof of Israeli-S. African nuclear link'

WASHINGTON (R) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is prepared to provide U.S. legislators with irrefutable evidence that Israel was helping South Africa build a long-range nuclear missile, U.S. television reported Thursday.

NBC News, citing senior U.S. officials and intelligence sources, said Israel had ignored "discreet protests" from Washington and appeared to be expanding the relationship.

The Israeli defence ministry said Thursday there was no truth to an initial NBC report, aired Wednesday night, that Israel was helping Pretoria build the missile in exchange for enriched uranium for Israel's own warheads.

In a follow-up report, the network said that in addition to the reputed nuclear cooperation Israel had transferred much of the technology of its cancelled Lavi fighter-bomber to South Africa.

Israel scrapped the Lavi in 1987 under pressure from the United States, which provided most of

the \$1.5 billion spent to develop it. The largest industrial project ever undertaken in Israel, the warplane had been beset with delays and cost overruns.

In its report Thursday, NBC quoted intelligence sources as saying the CIA was ready "to lay out the evidence of (an Israeli-South African) missile pact to the appropriate committees of Congress."

"The sources said the evidence is irrefutable," NBC said.

At issue could be billions of dollars in U.S. foreign aid to Israel because Congress may cut off aid to countries violating a long-standing international arms embargo against South Africa.

Neither Israel nor South Africa are signatories of the treaty aimed at halting the spread of nuclear weapons.

The State Department said late Thursday that it had no indication that any U.S. missile technology had been transferred from Israel to South Africa.

Under the rules governing U.S. exports of missiles and other advanced weapons, a recipient is banned from retransferring that technology without the prior approval of the U.S. government.

The State Department said U.S. policy opposing the spread of nuclear weapons "applies to Israel as much as to anyone else."

"The government of Israel is well aware of our position," the department said in a delayed written reply to a question left over from the routine noon news briefing.

The Arab League ambassador to United States, Clovis Maksoud, said in a statement late Thursday that the reported Israeli role should prompt Washington to crack down on Israel.

"These two regimes — Israel and Pretoria — must realise that their reckless policies cannot be pursued with impunity and without cost," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said NBC lied in its report.

"It's all lies," Shamir told Israeli radio Friday.

"Implications" Israeli newspapers and policy analysts, barred by military censorship from reporting on the country's nuclear arms programme, suggested U.S. officials leaked the story out of frustration at perceived Israeli intransigence on Middle East peace efforts.

Asked if Washington was trying to embarrass Israel, Shamir told reporters to "ask the Pentagon," according to an aide.

The Jerusalem Post quoted Dore Gold of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies as saying the most significant aspect of the NBC report was its political timing.

"It could have been intentionally leaked to embarrass Israel at a time when tensions are rising in the relations between Israel and the U.S.," Gold said.

Most newspapers indicated in editorials or analyses that they assumed the NBC report was broadly true, focusing on the issue of why the CIA or U.S. Defence Department officials chose to leak it now.

Gorbachev announced in Finland Thursday the unilateral withdrawal of all ballistic nuclear submarines from the Baltic Sea by the end of next year.

He also expressed support for a nuclear-free zone in the region. However, the U.S. administration rejected the idea, saying it would not improve European security.

Earlier Friday, TASS announced that the Soviet Union had destroyed the last of 957 shorter-range nuclear missiles scheduled for liquidation under a 1987 superpower treaty.

Under the accord, 889 intermediate-range Soviet missiles, most of them SS-20s, are also to be liquidated. Their destruction has started, but TASS did not say when it would be finished.

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"The Soviet side is disturbed by the lack of prospects for the complete liquidation of nuclear weapons in the region and by recent setbacks to disarmament," Moiseyev said.

He did not name the setbacks, but said Moscow was concerned about NATO's unwillingness to negotiate about naval forces.

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Soviets cutting northwestern army group

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said Friday it was slashing its troop strength near Finland by 40,000 men in an announcement timed to coincide with a visit to Helsinki by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Mikhail Moiseyev said in an interview with TASS news agency that the planned troop cuts in the northwestern army group were part of a general reduction in Moscow's armed forces because ties with Nordic countries had improved.

"The planned measures will cut the northwestern army group by 40,000 men and 1,200 tanks. Substantial cuts will also be made in artillery," Moiseyev said.

He did not say how many troops were in the northwestern army group now but said the personnel of the Leningrad and

Baltic areas would be slashed by one-third by 1991.

"In addition to reorganisation, several units and formations will be disbanded," Moiseyev said.

Gorbachev announced in December that the Soviet Union was reducing its armed forces by 500,000 men by 1991, but Moiseyev has not announced full details of the cuts.

In March, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Moscow would slash military personnel in the Leningrad district and the northern fleet by 20,000 as part of the cuts, but it was unclear to what extent this would overlap with the reductions announced by Moiseyev.

The Soviet Union's northwestern theatre of operations includes the Leningrad area, the Kola Peninsula bordering Finland and Norway, and part of the Arctic

region. Most of the Baltic area is part of another theatre, the western army group.

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Thatcher supporters seek to stump government crisis

LONDON (Agencies) — Conservative politicians rallied behind Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday in an effort to stanch the damage to her government caused by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's abrupt resignation.

The public expressions of loyalty failed, however, to disguise private fears that the crisis caused by Lawson's departure could ultimately prove fatal to Thatcher's own survival.

The prime minister, facing the gravest challenge of her decade in power, is expected to come under intense pressure from senior colleagues to soften her imperious style of leadership, political sources said.

Amid the turmoil, she made a relaxed appearance on the steps of her Downing Street residence in an attempt to claim the agitated share and currency mar-

kets. She offered an assurance that government policies "will continue precisely as they were."

Lawson, chancellor for more than six years, walked out of the government Thursday when Thatcher refused to dismiss Sir Alan Walters as her chief economic adviser.

Walters, who inked Lawson by publicly attacking his strategy of high interest rates to curb inflation and a record balance of payments deficit, followed with his own resignation.

In an immediate cabinet reshuffle, Thatcher moved Foreign Secretary John Major to replace Lawson at the treasury and appointed Home Secretary Douglas Hurd to fill the gap at the Foreign Office.

Sterling fell sharply on foreign exchange markets overnight but stabilised when the Bank of England intervened heavily in its sup-

port on Friday morning (see page 6).

The Independent newspaper reported Conservative party legislators met secretly to discuss challenging Thatcher's leadership.

But senior Conservative leaders echoed party chairman Kenneth Baker, who dismissed any suggestion her position was at risk.

"She has been in many difficulties and come through them successfully. There is not an economic crisis. The economy of the country remains very strong," Baker said in a British Broadcasting Corporation radio interview.

Government critics say the administration's economic policies have pushed Britain to the brink of recession. The government says there is no alternative to high interest rates to fight inflation.

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Libya mourns 'victims of Italian colonisation'

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya cut itself off from the world Thursday to mourn victims of Italian colonial rule and vowed to wrest compensation and revenge.

An Italian living in Libya was found dead Wednesday night near Tripoli, apparently the victim of "an ordinary crime," the Libyan news agency JANA said.

It gave no further details of the killing on the eve of the anniversary of a mass deportation of Libyans in 1911.

Thursday was declared a national day of mourning for what official media described as "the biggest crime in all of history."

JANA said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was fasting in sorrow. Flags flew at half mast. Traffic slowed at noon. Many Libyans clipped black cloth to their clothes, or black flags to their car antennas.

Telex and phone lines to the outside world were cut for 12 hours from 6 a.m. (0500 GMT), even for scores of foreign journalists invited to the event.

Libyan Arab Airlines halted all domestic and international flights, and Libyans were banned from travelling or purchasing

tickets to Italy.

Libya demands that Italy pay compensation for deaths, deportations and damage inflicted during colonial rule from 1911 to 1943.

Qadhafi has warned that if Italy failed to respond, "Libyans will have the right to take any action that will secure to them revenge."

More than 800 Libyans have sailed a luxury liner to Naples to press for reparations. One of the passengers said Thursday the black-draped ship had been commandeered by "popular command."

The 846 Libyans on the liner Granata, normally used for pilgrimages to Mecca, have been kept on board since Wednesday morning, when Italy refused to let them ashore to mark the anniversary.

"All crimes deserve punishment," said Ibrahim Abu Khazam, secretary of the General People's Congress, the Libyan parliament, at the opening Wednesday night of a three-day "international symposium on Libyan Arab exiles to Italy."

"At the very least Italy should pay us for the damage it caused,"

he said.

Libya says 5,000 Libyans were deported to Italy and 1.25 million Libyans, or three-fourths the population, killed. This is more than 10 times the figure advanced by most Italian historians.

Central Tripoli was plastered with fuzzy black and white photographs of Libyans being led away by Italian troops more than 70 years ago.

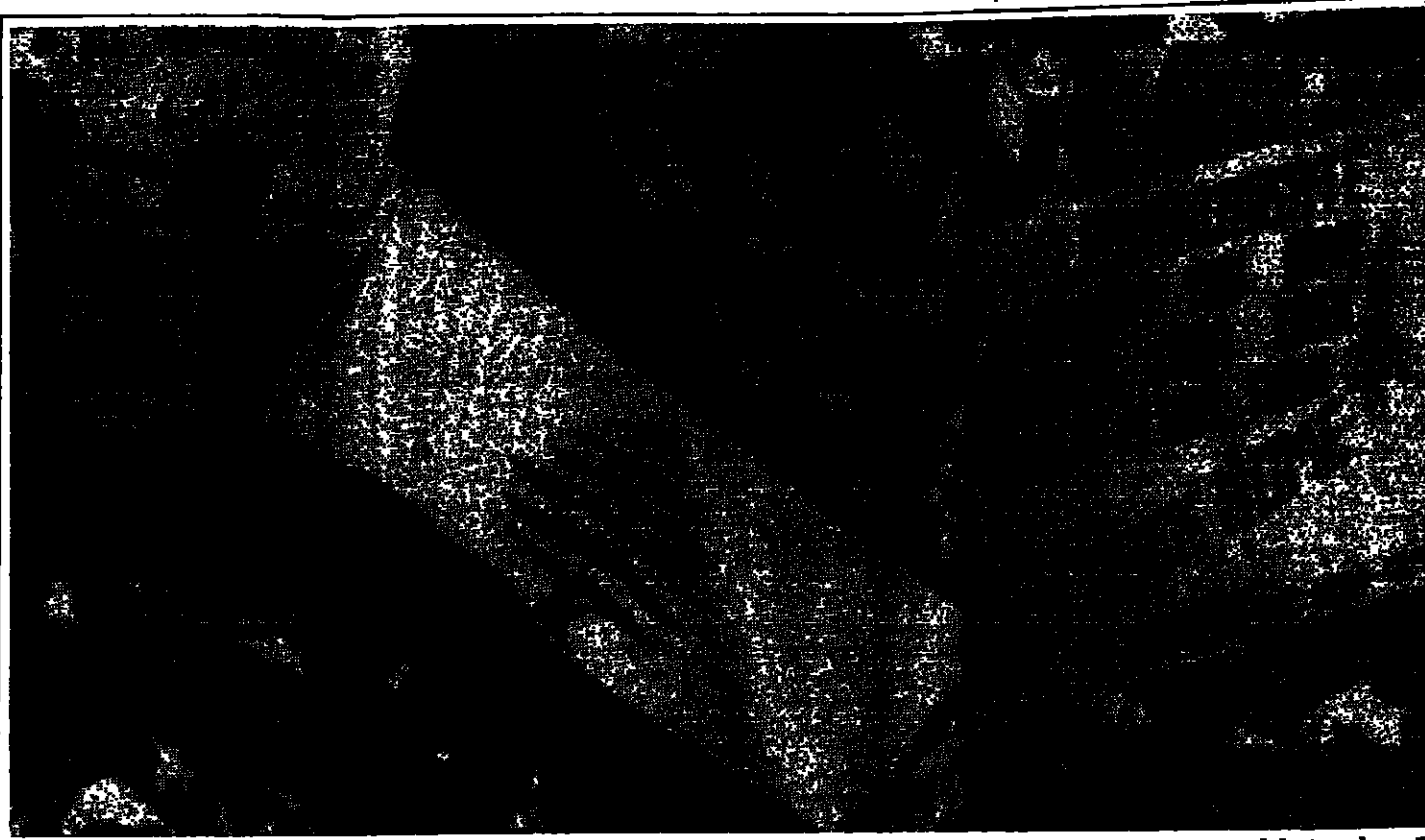
A dozen Libyans held a sit-in in front of the Italian embassy where police had blocked off the street and giant black banners called for compensation.

Names of deportees have been read daily on the radio and television for the past several weeks, residents reported.

Italy said it closed the compensation issue with a 1.6 billion lira payment in 1956 to former King Idris, overthrown by Qadhafi in a 1969 coup.

Libya says the amount did not constitute formal compensation and was insufficient.

Italy is Libya's main trading partner, accounting for one-third of its foreign trade, and Qadhafi said earlier this month he did not want a crisis in relations.



Christian demonstrators raise the Lebanese flag and placards against the U.S. and its policy in Lebanon during a march last week to give support for army commander Michel Aoun

Peace — a draconian task in Lebanon

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — The peace accord worked out by Lebanon's lawmakers in Saudi Arabia is the most serious Arab effort yet to end 14 years of civil war. But making it work in the sectarian battleground of Lebanon will not be easy.

Arab League mediators in the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif achieved what was unthinkable a few weeks ago in a country that has been run by rival Christian and Muslim governments since September 1982.

The accord is the first to provide a framework for political reforms that will share power equally between the traditionally dominant Christians and the Muslims who now make up an estimated 55 per cent of the four million population.

Yet it is a fragile structure because it falls short of defusing the political frustrations of the warlords on both sides who have in the past always called the shots and who were not represented in Taif.

Nor does it spell out concrete plans for the withdrawal of 40,000 Syrian troops from Lebanon, as the Christians demand.

Arab and foreign pressure may force the warlords to accept the accord, which Lebanon's war-weary people hope signals an end to the carnage in which more than 150,000 people have been killed and one-quarter of the population displaced.

But the agreement worked out over three weeks of often stormy talks in Taif faces many pitfalls, the legacy of a decade and a half of sectarian bloodletting and a passion for self-destruction that has verged on the suicidal.

The deeply embedded distrust on both sides and the regional rivalries in Lebanon could yet wreck it as they did peace efforts in

1983, 1984 and 1985.

"Reaching agreement in Taif is likely to be child's play in comparison to putting that agreement into effect in Lebanon," noted veteran analyst Charles Snow in the respected Middle East Economic Survey.

The Taif agreement reduces the dominant role held by the Maronite Catholics, the main Christian sect, in the government and parliament and gives the Muslim majority greater political clout than they have ever had since independence from France in 1943.

The Taif accord envisages the formation of a government of national reconciliation that will restore the long eroded authority of the state and the election of a president acceptable to all sides.

But Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri says the Taif agreement does not give his 1.2 million-strong sect, the largest in Lebanon, a share of power compatible with their numbers.

Druze chief Walid Junblatt has grudgingly voiced acceptance of the accord, but he clearly is far from happy with it.

The Druze form only six per cent of the population and harbour deep-rooted fears for their survival amid the burgeoning Shi'ite population.

For the right-wing Maronites led by army commander Michel Aoun, the accord's failure to solidly guarantee a withdrawal by the Syrians, who back the Muslims, leaves them insecure.

The accord is vague about an eventual Syrian withdrawal and clearly leaves the Syrians, long the major power-broker in Lebanon, with a role in the fragmented country.

It noted somewhat disingenuously, given Syrian controls of 70 per cent of the country, "Syria ... will not permit any act that threatens Lebanon's security, independence or sovereignty."

Gulf nerves calm despite Iranian attack

DUBAI (Agencies) — Iranian gunboats attacked an Iraqi tug in the northern Gulf Wednesday and killed a crewman, shipping sources said, but oil markets and regional officials reacted calmly.

In the first such incident reported since the end of the Iran-Iraq war a year ago, the sources said two gunboats approached the tug at Iraq's Misa Al Bakr oil terminal and opened fire.

Neither side reported the attack and the sources were not sure whether the boats had been trying to hit the tug or the terminal.

A government official in Baghdad, asked to comment, said he had no information.

In Tehran an officer in the armed forces joint staff declined to answer questions when telephoned by Reuters. The Iranian navy began a four-day exercise in the north-central Gulf Wednesday.

Iranian sources close to the Tehran government and Gulf Arab officials dismissed the likelihood of renewed conflict.

"There is no doubt the attack took place but the Iranians wouldn't want to start another war now. Somebody probably just got a bit crazy and fired a few shots," said a shipping source.

Iranian gunboat captains, who spearheaded Tehran's sea war, were ideologically motivated and prone to over-enthusiasm, Western naval sources in the Gulf said.

The Iranian sources said both sides wanted to stop news of the incident creating a war scare.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein spent Wednesday and Thursday leading celebrations to mark the reopening of Iraq's southern port of Fao, scene of some of the fiercest fighting in the war.

Kabul mayor hits Soviet intervention

KABUL (AP) — The Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan was immoral, unnecessary and partly to blame for the country's current plight, according to a top government official.

The remarks of Karim Masiq, the mayor of Kabul and member of the central committee of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) were the first time a government official has openly criticised Moscow's decision to send troops to Afghanistan.

Masiq, in a wide-ranging interview Thursday with Western reporters, also said his party, which for years has adhered to Marxist economic policies, now wants the private sector to expand and help save Afghanistan's people from

starvation.

Even private merchants selling stolen goods will not be prosecuted, he said, "because they are still involved in bringing necessary goods to the market."

Masiq, a former political prisoner and short-story writer, was appointed Wednesday to the central committee as the ruling party held its first plenum since Soviet troops withdrew in February. Unlike last year's meeting, when security forces rounded up hundreds of members of opposing political factions, this year's plenum exuded an atmosphere of intra-party unity, diplomats said.

On Monday, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Moscow's invasion of Afghanistan was illegal and

violated "civil norms and ethics." Masiq agreed with that and called the incursion immoral.

"It is very clear that it was unnecessary," Masiq said. "And it is only natural that the Afghan people would defend against the Soviet force."

Significantly, Masiq did not criticise the United States or other countries for aiding the guerrillas during the Soviet involvement. But he said they were wrong to continue supporting the rebels after the Soviets left Afghanistan.

"There are no Mujahideen now," Masiq said. "We are the Mujahideen."

He said that although many factors have hurt Afghanistan, the Soviet military presence had added to the problems.

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15:45	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary
18:45	Message from Iraq
19:00	A play by Shakespeare
19:10	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Consumer's Guide
22:00	Local programme
22:30	News in Arabic

18:00	PROGRAMME TWO
18:00	Anges Et Loups
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Natural Phenomena
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Allo Allo
21:10	Saturday Variety
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature film: "Stagecoach"

PRAYER TIMES	
04:26	Fajr
05:44	(Sunrise) Dula
11:19	Dhuhr
14:26	'Asr
16:25	Maghreb
18:12	'Isha

It will be partly cloudy and a slight drop in temperature is expected. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 10 / 21

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740	Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 622785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625343	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772621	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811205
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 813817, 654532	

Agaba 15 / 27

Deserts 11 / 25

Jordan Valley 15 / 28

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Agaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Agaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam	894184
Dr. Bahjat Badr	846070
Dr. Akram Samhan	894611
Dr. Tawfiq Qalyan	623029
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fendows pharmacy	787636
Al Asma pharmacy	670255
Nairook pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yasoub pharmacy	649445
Stameizani pharmacy	637660

AMMAN:	
Dr. Adel Hatanish	(—)
Al Shamsa's pharmacy	(983238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Youssef Abu Sa'ad (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

REPAIRS

AMMAN:

Dr. Adel Hatanish (—)

Al Shamsa's pharmacy (983238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Youssef Abu Sa'ad (—)

EMERGENCIES

HOSPITALS

Civil Defence Department 661111	Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue 630341	Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228	Madras, J. Amman 636140
Blood Bank 775121	Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390	Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800	Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467	Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 661912	Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 661103	(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230	Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101	Abdull Telephone Repairs 731111
Jordan Television 774111	Rocio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 815613	Jordan Electricity Authority 636730
Electric Power Company 636381	

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
12:00	Baghdad (IA)
12:30	Cairo (MS)
13:00	Kuwait (KU)
13:45	Tripoli (LU)
16:25	Riyadh (SV)
17:00	Rome (AZ)
17:50	Dubai (EK)
21:45	Paris, Damascus (AF)

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apple (golden) 420 / 380

Apple (red) 350 / 300

Banana 450 / 400

Beans (Makassar) 400 / 350

Beans 600 / 500

Cabbage 180 / 120

Carrot 350 / 300

Cauliflower 250 / 200

Corn 250 / 200

Cucumbers (large) 180 / 120

Cucumbers (small) 400 / 350

Eggplant 210 / 170

Garlic 900 / 800

Grapes 220 / 180

Grapes (black) 450 / 400

Guava 400 / 350

Lemon 220 / 180

Mallow 160 / 120

Marrow (large) 150 / 100

Marrow (small) 220 / 220

Okra 600 / 500

Olives 400 / 470

Onion (dry) 300 / 250

Orange 450 / 380

Peas (dry) 180 / 150

Pepper (green) 150 / 120

Pepper (red) 150 / 120

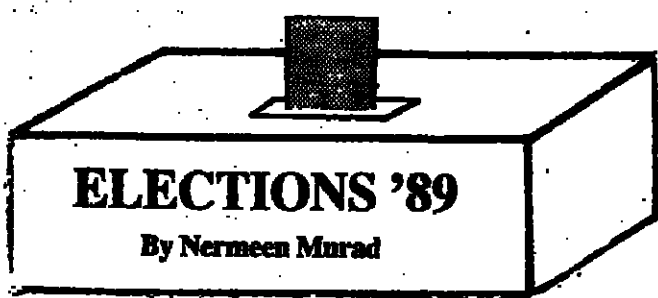
Tomatoes 280 / 220

Water Melon 280 / 170

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Agaba (RJ)
10:15	Rome (add.) (RJ)
10:30	Agaba, Frankfurt (add.) (RJ)
10:40	Tripoli (RJ)
10:45	Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
11:15	Amman, New York (RJ)
12:00	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:00	London (RJ)
12:15	Paris (RJ)
12:45	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
15:40	Cairo (RJ)
19:05	Kuwait (RJ)
20:10	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:20	Jeddah (RJ)
20:20	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:35	Agaba, Helsinki (RJ)

ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
04:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:00	Damascus (RJ)
09:05	Agaba (RJ)
09:20	New Delhi (RJ)
09:15	Cairo (RJ)
09:35	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:40	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:45	Helsinki, Agaba (add.) (RJ)
16:40	Cairo (RJ)
17:00	New York, Montreal (RJ)
17:55	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00	Rome (add.) (RJ)
19:40	Tripoli (RJ)
23:30	Frankfurt (add.) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:15	Beirut (ME)
13:00	Baghdad (IA)
13:40	Cairo (MS)
14:30	Kuwait (KU)
14:45	Dubai (EK)



TRIBAL FEUDS, election stunts, rumours of "wingsplooding," the "winners" strutting around like peacocks in public but acting like foxes in private, the "educated" fighting for recognition and the youth lost between tribal affiliations and youthful dreams; the scene sounds like many all over Jordan in the run-up to the elections, but this stage is much smaller. It's an obscure and mostly unnoticed constituency in the capital — the Fourth District.

The Fourth District, covering an area in Amman suburbs including Al Qweisneh, Sahab and Abu Alanda as well as several small villages and refugee camps, boasts 19 candidates vying for its two seats in the Lower House of Parliament.

What is distinct in this district is the impressive tribal names and some relatively unknown names which are preceded with an academic definition competing for the two seats. What is evident in a quick reading of the names of the candidates running in this district is that there is more than one candidate from the same tribe and affiliation.

A tribal leader, who has set up an election campaign office in the centre of Al Qweisneh, says: "Our goal is to serve every citizen with whatever we can and within the limits of the law."

"We do not have an entertainment city in east Amman," he points out. "The municipality cleared an area for such a city four years ago but we have not seen anything materialise yet," says the enthusiastic candidate, commenting on what he perceives as one of the "special needs" and priorities of his constituency.

Another priority, he says, is a university. He maintained that students from the area spend as much as JD 4 every day to reach the University of Jordan. "The student goes from Muwaqar to Sahab, from Sahab to Wihdat, from Wihdat to downtown Amman, to Abdali to finally reach Jubeiha, where Jordan University is located."

On the Palestinian issue, he said, "We bless the Jordanian move to open a Palestinian embassy in His Majesty King Hussein's Jordan." He called for continued support for the Palestinian uprising "with everything possible."

Tribalism, the candidate maintained, is the dominant factor in the Fourth District and will emerge as the winner in elections. "Organised Islamic movements diminish in the face of tribal affiliations," he asserted.

Another candidate, with a doctorate degree, had just returned to the town after a meeting with voters in the outskirts. He looked tired, but retained enthusiasm while talking about election campaigns. He believes that the time allocated for campaigns "is simply not enough when one considers the prolonged absence of elections in the country."

"The cart is placed in front of the horse," he argued. "There isn't enough time to transcend the tribalism and hold elections on a clearly democratic position."

The elements that have fought against his campaign so far "are the mice of the banners."

"I placed 12 banners in Al Qweisneh one evening but they had disappeared by the next morning," he lamented.

In his anger, words like "forged authorisations" and "missing cards" kept coming up. He claimed that some candidates in collaboration with their lawyers had forged authorisations on behalf of citizens and picked voter cards for citizens and then hid them "to do something that is not straight. Otherwise, why would they hide them even when the citizen asks them for them?"

He claimed that as many as 5,000 cards are "missing" in Al Qweisneh and 6,000 in Sahab. "This is an elections predicament; what do we do?" he asked.

The claims cannot be verified, but some citizens of the district allege that their cards were collected from the authorities by lawyers who were not authorised by them, while others claim that these are very few incidents which cannot be taken as a rule.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Fasad Mimi and 'Ammar Khammash at Abdal Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Discovered pictures in East Jerusalem" by Austrian artist Eva Patz at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddoumi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Jordanian amateur artists exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Scholars and Revolution" at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURES

- ★ A lecture by Prof. Dr. Rotraut Wojtowitsch-Wielandt entitled "Germany in the Arabic Travelogues" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Image of the European Woman in Modern Arabic Literature" by Prof. Dr. Wojtowitsch-Wielandt at the University of Jordan — 12:00 noon.

FILM

- ★ An Italian film entitled "Per Grazia Ricevuta" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:00 p.m.



MOTHER NATURE OR WICKED HANDS? ... An unexplained phenomenon, described as regrettable by many, is emerging in Amman streets with banners of some candidates in the Nov. 8 elections being destroyed or pulled

down. It is strange, say some observers, that "strong winds" pull down banners of some candidates while others next to them remain intact. Rivalry in the air, may be? (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Political trends vie with traditionalism in Karak

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

KARAK — Once known as the political Greenwich village of southern Jordan, this hotbed for political activism is living up to its name as 56 candidates, from various shades of the political spectrum, vie for votes to fill the nine seats allocated to the Karak district in Parliament in the Nov. 8 elections.

Although political parties have been banned in Jordan since 1957, banners decorate what seemed like every street in Karak, obviously reflecting a kaleidoscope of political ideologies — mostly nationalist, fundamentalist and leftist in character. Expected voter turnout on Nov. 8 is high, since 63,563 out of 67,562 registered voters have picked up their voter cards. That would indicate that the vast majority of Karak's eligible voters would be heading for the polls. The estimated population of Karak is 139,500 of which over half is below voting age.

Although there is a big debate the role of self-styled Muslim Brotherhood candidates, who number over 25 throughout the Kingdom, most Karak candidates and voters who spoke to the Jordan Times, during an informal talk with journalists, focused more on tribal affiliations and the changes in life in the Kingdom.

The "Islamic ticket," within the ranks of Muslim Brotherhood, which is the only "legal" political movement in Jordan, has put them one step ahead of the others which have been banned since 1957. Activists from all political leanings and tendencies who once worked together are now running against each other vying to win the same electorate.

Although many candidates supported the idea of running on combined tickets, which would either group candidates, who reflected the same ideology or a complementary one, no one seemed willing to step

out of the race in favour of a colleague who represented the same or similar approaches to solving political, economical and social problems that voters are asking candidates to address all over the Kingdom.

One candidate felt that divisions amongst possible leaders of banned parties were encouraged indirectly, by unofficial spokesmen of opposition forces to split votes and thus weaken the overall support that any single candidate could possibly muster.

Tribalism, once the overriding element of popular support in most southern districts, has evidently been fractured. "Almost every tribe has more than two or three candidates running in the elections," said Muhammad Faris Tarawneh, one of four members of the Tarawneh clan running for one of the Muslim seats in the Karak constituency. "Because there are more seats, more people are running," said Tarawneh. "Secondly as the tribe grows in number there are more likely to be divisions of various characters; there are divisions among the young and old as well as those who have certain political tendencies. Many of the younger members of the clan would like to see older traditionalists being replaced by younger, more dynamic, members of the same tribe," Tarawneh added.

Other well known Karaki tribes also appear to be split over the issue of traditionalists and "youth candidates." The Majalis, who, according to Abdul Rahman Majali, have 4,000 voting members in the district of Karak, have four candidates, two of whom are vying for the same electoral seat.

Another large Karaki tribe, the Muahha's, have seven candidates running, each one representing one of the seven villages which have been considered Muahha villages for generations. Although outsiders may see the different candidates from the same tribe as very similar, clan members insist that they are different,

representing all colours of the political spectrum.

Riad Nawayseh, a former Karak deputy in Parliament and a renowned Arab nationalist, seems tribalism as the number one criteria for voters. "The way I see it tribalism is still very strong in Karak. Religion can be, I think, considered the number two criteria and regionalism comes third," Nawayseh said. He also said he regretted the obvious split among members of formerly united ideological movements, which had given him a landslide victory in the 1984 by-elections.

Two out of nine electoral seats have been allocated to Christian candidates. The Christian population in Karak governate only amounts to 3,600 people, less than half of which are eligible to vote in the elections. One Christian candidate, self-proclaimed leftist since the 1940s, is vying for the "progressive-nationalist" vote for one of the two Christian seats. He receives voters and other guests in a 150-year-old convent run by priests belonging to his tribe.

Answering questions ranging from what to do about unemployment to Jordan's debt to the World Bank, he displayed all the attributes of traditional manners distinctive to tribal leaders, whether Muslim or Christian, leftist or traditionalist, rich or poor all over the Arab World.

Although His Majesty the King has spoken of holding elections since last year, most candidates believe that the spring unrest in Maan were instrumental in the government's decision to call the Nov. 8 elections.

While ideological "colours" of Karak governate are in no way uniform, all candidates agreed that they would ask for a greater share of development aid for their district, the abolition of martial law and individual freedoms. One more thing they have in common is that all of them offer massat to their guests.

King meets British air chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein had a meeting at the Royal Court Thursday with Sir Peter Harding, chief of the general staff of the British Royal Air Force.

The audience was attended by British ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

King Hussein had returned to Amman early Thursday after joining the leaders of the

other three members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries at ceremonies held in Baghdad marking the reconstruction of the southern port of Fao.

Harding was also received by his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who reviewed with him Middle East developments in general and discussed prospects for joint British-Jordanian ventures in the

manufacture and maintenance of electronic equipment in the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan briefed Harding on Jordan's current economic readjustment programme and challenges facing the country at present.

Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, also met Harding and discussed scopes of cooperation and reviewed the situation in the region.

World Food Day focuses on boosting agriculture

AMMAN (J.T.) — World Food Day was observed in Jordan Thursday with a ceremony in honour of farmers for their efforts to increase production. The ceremony was attended by United Nations officials and Minister of Agriculture Bassam Al Saket and a number of Jordanian farmers.

The farmers were commended for their endeavours to boost their land production and their livestock and poultry and for developing rainfed agricultural land, according to a statement read at the ceremony organised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The minister handed the farmers certificates of merit and praised their work, which, he said, was instrumental in stimulating Jordan's national economy.

"Despite the great efforts on the part of the ministry and local farmers, Jordan's agricultural

sector still confronts production challenges due to the rising cost of equipment and other requirements and strong competition with other producers in foreign markets," the minister said in his address.

Surmounting such challenges, he said, can be come about through the employment of highly-skilled labour and adopting modern methods and techniques. "The Jordanian farmer has great potential to benefit from modern methods and to apply them to production and improving and increasing the volume of output," the minister said. "But the greater challenge lies in the soaring cost of modern technology which Jordan has to import, and the need to reduce the cost of production so that Jordanian farmers can compete on the foreign markets."

"Damage to the environment and pollution," Saket said, is tantamount to a Third World War, threatening all people on earth."

The celebration was organised jointly with the World Food Programme (WFP).

Committee endorses information strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — A ministerial committee on information has endorsed a national information plan prepared by Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali.

Meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, the committee reviewed the various aspects of the plan, which outlines the role of the media and information services in the service of the local community, and endorsed it.

The plan, a statement issued by the committee said, the principle for information policies in Jordan based on the Kingdom's experience as well as the necessary machinery for the operation of various information services. The statement said that the plan would serve as the main guideline for future informational policies.

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Voters continue to collect cards

AMMAN (Petra) — Voters continue to collect their voting cards for the Nov. 8 elections and the number of voting cards delivered to voters in Irbid governate reached 104,365 out of 126,903 (82.2 per cent).

In the city of Irbid itself 24,892 cards were handed out: 6,148 in the Irbid camp, 5,774 in the Martyr Azmi Al Mufti camp, 42,551 cards in the district of Irbid, 6,073 in Al Wasitiyeh, 7,202 in Alitibeh and 11,729 in the northern district of Al Mazar. In Zarqa 71,306 cards were distributed (73 per cent).

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CARDIAC CONFERENCE ENDS: A three-day conference on chest diseases and thoracic surgery concluded Friday with a recommendation for establishing a pan-Arab chest and cardiac society, grouping all national and regional heart and chest associations.

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN'S MEETING: Jordan has participated in the International Conference of the Business and Professional Women Club which convened in Nassau, the Bahamas. Dr. Ranad Ayyad, who represented Jordan at the conference, presented a working paper touching on the various stages of education in Jordan including the various changes and developments in the educational programme. A total of 1,025 women from 60 countries participated in the conference. (Petra)

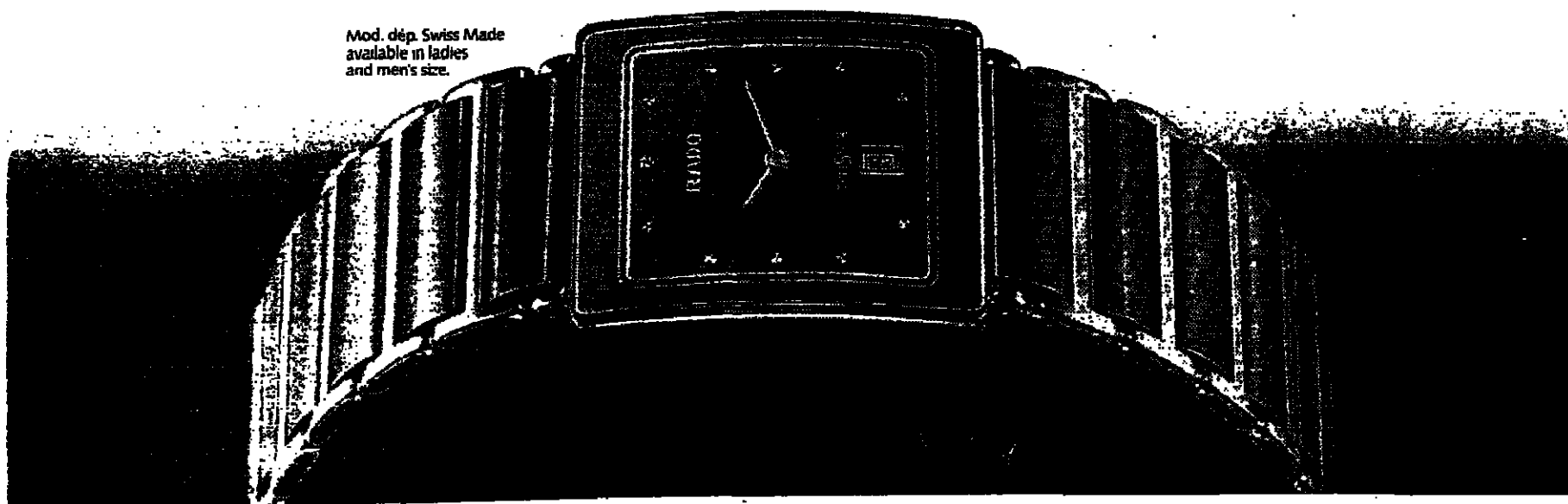
GOVERNOR APPROVES TENDER: Balqa Governor Faleh Gharaybeh has endorsed the Tenders Committee decision related to granting a tender to a local company in order to improve the Hashimiyah-Istirhab road at the coast of JD 4,272. (Petra)

RSS RECEIVES DONATION: The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has received a donation of JD 6,000 from the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company towards financing the costs of publishing two scientific books on natural and chemical changes and children's libraries. (Petra)

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
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Consolidate Taif agreement

NOW THAT a big political hurdle has been overcome by the Lebanese parliamentarians at the Taif meeting, speedy auxiliary measures must be taken to consolidate this critical but fragile achievement. The momentum of the peace process in Lebanon must never be allowed to lose steam lest hostile forces regroup, sow distrust and weaken the resolve of the many Lebanese factions that have bravely spoken in support of the Taif breakthrough. What comes to mind at this stage are "non-political" steps, especially economic and fiscal ones that would help lure the doubtful, bolster the supporter and weaken the opposition. Therefore, a rapid convening of an international conference in which pledges of financial and economic support to the Taif agreement would seem to be in order. There is no limit to what such a pledging conference can do to fortify the critical step already undertaken and achieved to bring peace and stability back to Lebanon. In this vein, it would not be far-fetched to anticipate that billions of dollars could be pledged by the international community as a form of solid investment in peace in Lebanon. The economic reconstruction of Lebanon alongside its political restructuring must therefore be announced here and now and at this juncture in the Lebanese conflict. Such a complementary measure would paint a positive and bright picture of modern Lebanon for all to see. A success story in Lebanon would attract more supporters and investors than a bankrupt one.

In this context, the ideal place to hold such a pledging conference would be Beirut itself. But given the security situation still prevailing in Lebanon, Taif could still serve as the site for such a conference in view of its proven favourable climate. And while the Arab countries would be expected to be among the vanguard of pledgers, the rest, notably the major economic powers can be expected to bear a major part of the brunt of putting the Lebanese house in order. After all, the Lebanese dimension goes beyond the Arab World and touches upon every corner and aspect of humanity. The rescue mission for Lebanon, therefore, must be global, where mankind at large would unite to stop the 15-year old bleeding there once and for all. All countries have a stake in seeing war and destruction end and end permanently.

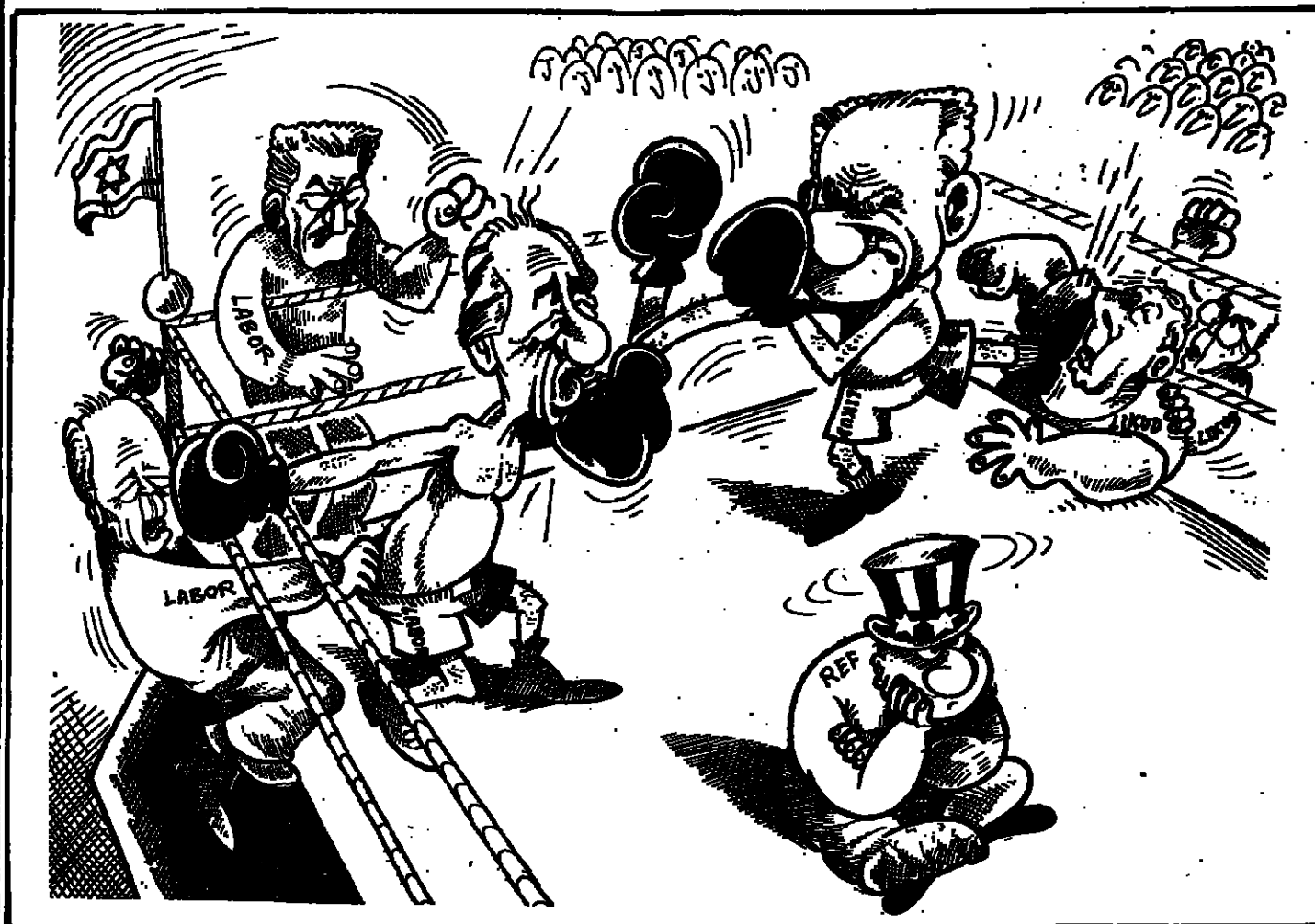
Besides the proposed pledging conference would offer all nations of the world the opportunity to match their verbal concern for Lebanon with deeds.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily discussed a visit to Baghdad by His Majesty King Hussein in which he took part in celebrations for the reconstruction of the Fao peninsula, and said it was a chance for another summit meeting between the heads of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries. The celebration has a great meaning for the Arab Nation since it reminds of the great victories achieved by the Iraqi armed forces, said the paper. It also a clear message to the world that the Arabs want peace and security in the Gulf region and are determined to achieve that goal, the paper added. It said that the summit meeting also had a great meaning for the Arabs since it offered the four leader another chance to review developments in the Middle East and the Lebanese arena and to come to agreement on issues of concern to their countries. The continued meetings between King Hussein and the leaders of the ACC represent a renewal of pledges for relentless efforts to serve the Arab World in general and the ACC states in particular, the paper said.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on Jordanian women to elect and stand for election for parliament in the Kingdom and says this is a legitimate right for them. The law has offered women the right to be represented in parliament, and therefore the way is open for women to delve into politics like men and help to establish a well-balanced Jordanian society in the every sense of the word, Zuleikha Abu Rishah writes. The writer cites many politicians and statesmen as saying that women constitute half the society in Jordan, but when it comes to representation in parliament they do not approve of women presence since they believe women have little experience in politics and therefore cannot offer a good serve, therefore women in the country are invited to come forward and support women candidates so as to help do away with old and fixed ideas about the feminine element, the writer continues. Abu Rishah finds encouragement in the attitude of some of the candidates who she says have put up slogans favourable for women and supporting their movements. She says women are called on to rise to the occasion and prove their capability in handling state affairs.

Sawt Al Shabab daily reminded the candidates running for election of their slogans and their promises and said that the electorate cannot forget such promises after the election on Nov. 8. The paper said that the voters will expect the new deputies to honour their commitment and carry out their promises and therefore it is advisable for all candidates to give promises that they can keep. The paper said that Jordan has limited means and can only attain modest achievements in a short period of time specially as the country is now grappling with immense social and economic issues. It said that parliamentary elections should be regarded as a practice of democracy in the true sense of the word and therefore both voters and candidates should take responsibility for the coming stage.



By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

'Absence of strong leadership hinders Mideast peace'

TEL AVIV — With both the PLO and Israel rejecting U.S. proposals for dialogue, efforts to arrange Palestinian-Israeli negotiations appear to have reached a low point.

Among the reasons for the stalemate is the fierce opposition of hardliners on both sides, and the lack of strong leadership that can overcome the resistance. "We are not in an era of great leadership," said Avraham Sela, a political science professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. "The problem is that both sides are in a quandary because of internal politics."

Daoud Kuttub, a Palestinian journalist, said "there is no far-sightedness in Israel, not enough statesmanship in the United States and general apathy in the Arab World."

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, 74, has portrayed Egyptian and U.S. efforts to bring about talks with Palestinians as disguised attempts at forcing Israel to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation. Digging in his heels, Shamir said in a speech last week that "this is our land from the dawn of history, and it will be so always. We will not be pushed nor pressured."

While Shamir has eased his rhetoric following criticism by the U.S. State Department, his ability to compromise is limited because hawks in his own right-wing Likud bloc, led by ex-Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, have put conditions on his peace proposals.

The hawks oppose trading land for peace, curtailing Jewish settlement building in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip or even starting talks until the 22-month Palestinian uprising has

been put down.

Part of the reason for a lack of progress, however, also lies in Shamir himself. He lacks the strength of Likud founder and ex-premier Menachem Begin, who arm-wrestled skeptical colleagues into making peace with Egypt in 1979.

Shamir is also viewed by some analysts as an inflexible ideologue who did not support the peace treaty with Egypt and who does not want to risk getting into any process now that would lead to yielding land or allowing exiled Palestinians to return.

"Shamir sees clearly the eventual result and doesn't want to get into it. It is not a matter of discussions and proposals," said Sela.

The rival Labour party advocates negotiations without further delay. But its leader, Finance Minister Shimon Peres, has lacked the muscle in his party to force the issue, although there are hints he may take action if Shamir returns empty handed from a trip to Washington next month.

The internal Palestinian debate is almost as intense as that in Israel. The only united stand came in Baghdad, Iraq, recently where PLO leaders rejected U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's compromise proposals as an attempt to circumvent the PLO.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has spent most of his time battling hardliners within his movement rather than assuaging Israeli doubts about his sincerity in pledging to renounce terror and accepting the Jewish state.

Palestinian Islamic fundamentalists have rejected any idea of a peace agreement. George Habash, a leading PLO leftist, has threatened to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak if he continued to promote a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo.

Shamir blocks the road

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel has abandoned his own plan for West Bank elections, Egypt's effort to promote talks on this plan, and the American effort to promote talks on the Egyptian effort. He says no to everything on the table and takes political refuge in the Israeli right's dream of annexing the West Bank. His alternative to diplomacy is to wait until the Palestinians tire of their uprising and their leadership.

Mr. Shamir is a tough and shrewd operator, devoted to his principles. Perhaps he will carry off his exercise in independence. Some Palestinians seem perversely determined to lead him a hand. They are stepping up terrorism against Israelis and against Palestinian "collaborators."

Characteristically, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chooses this moment to accuse the United States of playing Mr. Shamir's game. At any given time, hunkering down and risking an argument with their American patrons will strike many Israelis as preferable to taking the slightest risk of opening to their Palestinian adversaries. Mr. Shamir knows this well.

In Israel and elsewhere, nonetheless, there is a substantial body of opinion holding that international, regional and internal

circumstances make this an unprecedentedly auspicious and necessary moment for an experiment in Israeli-Palestinian coexistence.

The PLO's jitters and Mr. Shamir's negativism are backhanded acknowledgements of this vista. The PLO needs to be brought along, but it is Israel that most concerns us.

The American link to Israel is too tight to be loosened even by a Shamir policy that the State Department recently felt obliged to call disappointing and "unhelpful." And, of course, the United States has to deal with Mr. Shamir as long as he is prime minister.

Of note, however, are signs that Israelis are wondering whether they want to go all the way with Mr. Shamir. A new government could yet be formed with or without elections. Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Labour is spoken of as the necessary Israeli de Gaulle: a hard-liner who could take the decisions that the right would denounce the liberal Shimon Peres for.

There is a potential for breaking the impasse. But Mr. Shamir, tied as he is to the annexationists, is neglecting it. Thus the basis for asking whether there is someone else. — The Washington Post

Now is no time to ease pressure on de Klerk

By Desmond M. Tutu

CAPE TOWN — The credibility crisis that faces the new South African administration of President Frederik W. de Klerk was pinpointed by Dr. Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, when he, I and Dr. Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, met Mr. de Klerk.

Dr. Chikane told Mr. de Klerk, in almost as many words: You are telling the world to give you a chance. You are telling black South Africans, "The door to a new South Africa is already opened and it is not necessary to batter it down." You say you want to talk to representative leaders. Today, as I left to come and take advantage of your open door policy, a leader of the democratic movement wanted to consult me about this meeting. To claim to be representative, I needed to hear his views; I asked him to tavel with me. He told me he couldn't because a government restriction order — imposed during your presidency — prohibits him from leaving the Johannesburg magisterial district. People are saying your actions don't match your words.

Dr. Chikane did not mention the estimated 3,000 political pris-

oners who remain in South Africa's jails after the release of Walter Sisulu and other leaders of the African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress. He did not talk, at that point, about the fact that those two organisations — our premier liberation movements — remain banned by government decree. He did not refer to the government's emergency regulations, which provide the framework for restricting and jailing people without trial.

He didn't need to; his point was clear. The South African government may have allowed protest marches for the first time in many years and it may have released eight leaders. But those steps are drops in the ocean when seen against the pervasive network of laws, regulations, practices and attitudes that characterise the police state that has grown up in the last 30 years.

Enormous obstacles still stand in the way of the free political activity that is needed to get negotiations about a new political arrangement in South Africa off the ground. I and other church leaders remain committed to the belief that international pressure is one of the principal keys to removing those obstacles.

As I said to Mr. de Klerk, we are firmly opposed to the use of



violence to achieve the fundamental change that our country needs. If you are not allowed to vote for the central legislature in your country because of the colour of your skin, and if you reject violence, what other option do you have than nonviolent strategies that will force a government to change?

We have a responsibility to explore these strategies, and we have sought to fulfil that responsibility through acts of civil disobedience. The international community can play its part by keeping up pressure on the South African government.

Make no mistake: That pres-

ure is working. It was international pressure, combined with domestic pressure, that forced the government to allow the series of marches that have swept the country. It was the prospect of the further sanctions now were discussed at the Commonwealth meeting in Malaysia that precipitated the release of Mr. Sisulu and his comrades.

The willingness of Mr. de Klerk's government to move toward the establishment of a nonracial democracy in South Africa must be judged by his actions, not his words.

The United States the Commonwealth, the European Com-

After months of doubt, Bush embraces perestroika

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Five months ago the Bush administration dismissed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as a "drugstore cowboy". Now it is embracing the Soviet leader's programme of perestroika.

In two major foreign policy speeches in the past week, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker clearly stated that it was in the United States interest that perestroika, the process of reform and economic restructuring under way in the Soviet Union, should succeed.

"The real question was why were they so unbelievably sluggish in backing something that holds such big opportunities for the United States," said John Steinbruner, director of foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution, a private think tank.

"They have so much opportunity in their hands and they seem so reluctant to grasp it. Maybe they just finally realised that they were running far behind political events and needed to catch up," he said.

The Bush team took office apparently determined to be cautious and distance itself from what it saw as dangerous euphoria within the previous administration about Gorbachev and his policies.

Senior administration officials first dismissed the Soviet leader as a trickster.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, expressing the Bush administration's wariness about the Kremlin chief's warm initiatives, last May accused Gorbachev of "throwing out in a kind of drugstore cowboy fashion one arms control proposal after another."

Later, administration officials admitted that maybe Gorbachev was genuine but contended he was bound to fail.

But with a non-Communist government taking over in Poland and the Hungarian Communist party dissolving itself without provoking a murmur from Moscow, the administration's "timidity" had become a growing liability domestically.

The response has been to issue a wholehearted endorsement of Gorbachev while still striking a note of caution about his ultimate prospects of success.

"Perestroika is different than earlier, failed attempts at reforming the state Lenin founded and Stalin built ... it promises Soviet actions more advantageous to our interests," Baker said in the first of his speeches.

"Any uncertainty about the fate of reform in the Soviet Union is all the more reason, not less, for us to seize the present opportunity," he said in the second. Baker argued that even if Gor-

bachev was replaced by a hard-line leader, it would be difficult to break out of signed agreements and enormously expensive to replace nuclear arms that had been destroyed or recommence a military buildup.

"The longer that Gorbachev survives and pursues his policies, the clearer it has become that his survival is in our interests," said Barry Blechman, a Soviet expert with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"The administration now realises that Gorbachev is steering a course that favours virtually every foreign policy goal the United States has ever set for itself," he said.

Scepticism about the Kremlin leader still persists among some right-wingers inside and outside the administration and was voiced last week by Vice President Dan Quayle in a speech delivered on the same day as Baker's first address.

Reacting to Baker's offer of help and advice on how to create a free-market economy in the Soviet Union, Quayle said: "Let them reform themselves. The Soviet Union remains our potential adversary."

But the pace of reform in the East bloc has effectively neutralised such doubters, analysts said.

"The Soviet Union has passed difficult tests on Poland and Hungary. It's difficult not to be impressed and it would be strange if the administration did not modify its position," said Dimitri Simes, a Soviet-born analyst with the Carnegie International Endowment for Peace.

The Bush administration, which initially hung back, now sees the chance of making progress on a wide range of issues from arms control to regional conflicts.

"The Soviets seem now to be having a moderating influence on their allies. They are urging moderation in Nicaragua, telling the Cubans to withdraw from Angola and the Vietnamese are out of Cambodia," said Simes.

Some observers believe the administration was prompted by its growing concern about the need to cut its own budget to control the burgeoning foreign trade deficit.

"They will eventually have to cut military spending. Obviously, that will go down better if you have arms control agreements in place and can solve regional conflicts," said Jerry Hough, a Soviet scholar at Duke University in North Carolina.

LETTERS

Many possibilities

To the Editor:

WITH REFERENCE to the news item entitled: "Israeli toxic waste plan near Eilat rings alarm," published in the Jordan Times (Sunday Oct. 22, 1989), I have the following remarks with regard to plans for recycling toxic waste in Israel.

A great deal has been said and written on toxic waste dumping in the environment. The current awareness and fear from environmental pollution and the long life cycle of some of the known dangerous chemicals has led industrial countries to look for alternatives to dumping waste in the environment. A new approach is recycling. It seems that there are plans by Israel Chemicals Limited (ICL) to cooperate with a German firm for recycling chemical waste, of which phosphorus and aluminium apparently form part of its chemical composition. The waste, yet, may contain other elements and possibly different types of chemicals. Phosphene could be one of such dangerous and health hazard gases, which could form during the recycling process or when waste comes in contact with water.

It is also not clear to what extent air pollution could occur during the recycling process, mainly by gas emission, dispersed particulates and chemical vapours.

Accumulation of untreated waste poses a great threat to the environment as well. Waste water, if water is involved in the process, may cause further pollution to the Gulf of Aqaba and underground waters. Finally, transport of chemical waste by sea and at a later stage by land further exposes the region's environment by the danger of accidents during transport, loading and unloading.

Dr. N. Akkel
Royal Scientific Society

In search of fame and fortune: An interview with Nagla Fathy

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — From a very early age Nagla Fathy had just one thing on her mind — a burning, almost obsessive ambition to become famous. "It wasn't that I wanted to be an actress, or anything else. I just wanted to be famous," she recalls, candidly. "I have to admit that my idea of fame was rather confused and theoretical. It wasn't until much later that I planned my career in detail and carved out my future, knowing exactly what I wanted and where I wanted to end up."

Fathy's single-mindedness paid off. Today she is the celebrity she always dreamed of being. Not only is she a widely-acclaimed movie star in her native Egypt but she is also generally acknowledged as being one of the most talented and captivating young film actresses in the entire Arab-speaking world.

Fathy is the first to admit that her looks played a large part in her success on the screen. "At school and at the club people used to look at me a great deal, and I learned from a very early age that these looks meant that I was pretty. I've always considered my physical appearance an advantage in helping me attain the goal I wanted so badly — that of becoming famous," she said.

Her first big break came out of the blue, just as she always knew it would. "I was walking along the beach one day in Alexandria when a gentleman approached me and, without any preamble, said to me: 'Would you like to be in the movies?' At first I thought he was trying to pick me up, and I

put him very firmly in his place. 'You're mistaken,' he replied. 'I am a film producer. Here is my card and the lady you see over there is my wife. You have my phone number. Give me a call if you're interested in becoming a movie star.'" "At the time I was very good friends with Abdel Halim Hafiz who was our neighbor in Alexandria and who treated me like a younger sister," Fathy explained. "I rushed round to show him the card that this man had given me. 'Of course I know him, and he's right. You were made for the cinema,' he said. 'Why don't I ever think of it myself?'"

The memory of the late Abdel Halim Hafiz, in his time one of the most popular singers in the Middle East, is still very dear to Fathy. "Abdel Halim was a good, quiet man who was always thinking of other people," she said. "He didn't talk a great deal; he preferred to listen. His illness was far more advanced than most people suspected from reading the papers and watching his films. In spite of his fame, his continual successes, Abdel Halim wasn't able to live a normal life; he couldn't eat like other people, enjoy himself like other people."

"I had a younger sister-type relationship with him and when I, in my turn, hit the bright lights he gave me all sorts of valuable advice. 'Make use of constructive criticism and ignore the rest, unless of course it's attacking your dignity as a woman,' he used to say to me. 'If that happens, you must defend yourself to the hilt. Remember that the press is a formidable weapon. When you speak to the press, be straightfor-

ward, so as to be close to your public. Above all, learn to love the cinema. It will pay you back one hundred times over.' I've always followed his advice to the letter, and I've never had cause to regret it."

Two Naglas

As she speaks, Fathy wraps her arms affectionately around the shoulders of her small daughter Yasmina, who is sitting, pressed up close to her mother, listening to every word with rapt attention. "People say that I'm mysterious, that I try to hide my real self from journalists," she went on. "In fact I've learned to divide my life up into two halves. On one side there is Nagla, and on the other there is Fathy el Zahra, which is my real name, the one my parents gave me when I was born. Nagla is the actress, the professional. Zahra is a woman who likes nature, simple things, travelling — because when I'm travelling abroad I can walk down the street without being recognised. I should say that even here in Heliopolis, where I live, I go out and do the shopping, though of course I always take the precaution of putting a scarf over my head first. The people of Heliopolis are very kind to me. They always greet me with smiles, which gives me the feeling of being part of a big family. And even if I can no longer ride my bike through the streets I can at least do it at my club or down at the running track."

In spite of her reputation for being secretive, Fathy is forthright when talking about her private life. "I'm happy — yes, I'll say it — I'm not superstitious, at

least not much," she said. "The fact that I'm divorced, a free agent, with a young daughter whom I love dearly, the fact that I'm financially independent and that I'm not in any rush to get married again — all this gives me a great feeling of serenity at the moment."

Love and friendship

"I've been married twice," she added. "The first time it was for love, the second, for friendship. Both experiences left me full of disappointment and regrets, with a few happy memories, too few in my opinion. I fell in love in the early stages of my career. I was very lively and impulsive. I could work all day long and still find the energy to go out in the evening. It didn't last. One day I told myself: 'It's over' and I believed it. For me, love was finished and I had no desire to try it again."

"Perhaps that's why when a friendship presented itself I thought that it might be more solid, that it might have a better chance of giving me the happy family I wanted," she went on. "It was a friend I had known for years, with whom I'd lost touch for a variety of reasons. When we met up again he told me that our long separation had made him understand how much he needed me. I didn't love him, but I agreed to marry him, out of friendship. I married him because I wasn't passionately in love with him and that made me feel more at ease. I was scared of being made to suffer as I had done the first time. But in spite of everything, it didn't work. Today, with these experiences behind me, I can say that marriage is one of the

hardest decisions you have to make in your life. It's not just a question of choosing a companion to share your life, it's also a father for your children."

Asked what she likes best in a man, Fathy replies without hesitation: "I like it when a man laughs, when he laughs from the heart. That means a great deal. What do I hate? Selfishness. A man who can't think beyond his belly button. Unfortunately, they're in the majority."

There is no bitterness when Fathy speaks of her broken relationships. If anything, there is a glint of amusement in her eyes. She gives the impression of having overcome her crisis, probably thanks to her dedication to her career as an actress. "I love this job. I love the highs, but also the lows," she said. "When I'm not shooting I really get very bored. I try to keep busy doing other things: I re-arrange my house, I organise excursions, I read, I write poetry. Perhaps someday I will publish some of it."

Fathy's most recent undertaking is a role in a film called "Echtebaq" (Suspicion) directed by a young and relatively new face on the Egyptian movie scene, Ala Karim. The film is Karim's first major production, and many critics have expressed surprise that Fathy should accept a part with such a little-known director. Smiling, Fathy answers that Karim is one of the most talented people currently working in the Egyptian cinema. "Ala suggested something that was new to me, a character with several different layers which for me meant a certain evolution in my professional career," she said. "I don't like repeating myself. After I read the script I accepted



"I just wanted to be famous," admits film actress Nagla Fathy.

straight away. It's a daring movie, quite gruelling, a film that seems to be saying to our board of censors that they should re-think their position. For their part, the censors have been remarkably sporting about it, describing the script in their report as 'excellent'."

The theme of the movie is a closely guarded secret and Fathy herself is keeping tight-lipped on the subject. "I can only say that it's a realistic film with a fantastic side to it," she said enigmatically. "I like realism, but I also like a

hint of the fantastic to spice it up. In spite of this, I have a very soft spot for the old romantic movies and I'm always hoping for a fabulous story that will make me dream — and will make the audience dream along with me" — World News Link.

Indonesia: orangutans saved in the nick of time

Jakarta.

The Samarinda police chief, Lt. Col. Tjuk Suwarso, said the smuggling of rare and protected animals out of the province is suspected to have been on the increase over the past six months.

Orangutans and a local species of monkey, Wau-wau, are reportedly the most frequently smuggled animals.

A young orangutan is sold for about Rp1 million (\$560) on the

local black market.

Suwarso said the two orangutans had been given to the East Kalimantan conservation office.

In the East Kalimantan hinterland, orangutans live in groups and the trees on which the animals live are cut down in order to catch them. The hunters kill the mother before capturing the young. — PANOS.

Tanzania: Using coal to save trees

TANZANIA — The giant Southern Paper Mills (SPM) in Iringa has reported successful trials in the use of local coal from Kiwira in the Mbeya region. Chris Mwambundu reports from Dar es Salaam.

This could save Tanzania about

\$1 million a year in coal imports from Zambia. SPM general manager Spencer Barmer said: "We are now carrying out a technical study to see what modifications may have to be made to allow usage of Kiwira coal."

Another project to use coal for

domestic purposes and thus reduce deforestation and mismanagement of the environment is also planned by the government. The Minister of Energy and Minerals, Alnoor Kassum, told parliament recently that the project would include the manufac-

ture of charcoal stoves and the production of coal briquettes. He said the project would also involve use of coal for tobacco curing a sector notorious for voracious use of fuelwood and in consequence extensive tree cutting. — PANOS.

Time to work...

Time to relax.



On Time.

The business day, and another business trip that means pressure and making every minute count. So I just want to arrive on time and in good shape, ready for that vital meeting.

Royal Jordanian's new Business Class means a smooth, comfortable flight with excellent service, wide seats and traditional Jordanian hospitality.

Now, I relax and enjoy the flight - on Royal Jordanian's new Business Class.

BUSINESS

الخدمة الممتازة

CLASS

ROYAL JORDANIAN الملكية الأردنية
Setting new standards.

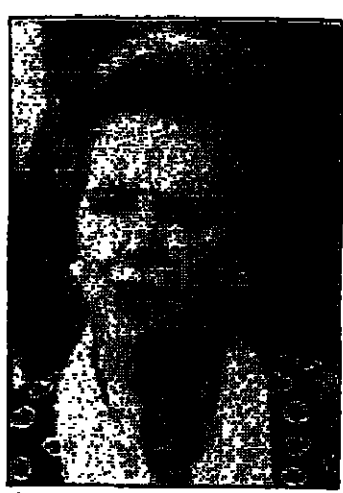
AMMAN • ADU DHABI • AMSTERDAM • ANKARA • AQABA • ATHENS • BAGHDAD • BAHRAIN • BANGKOK • BERRUT • BELGRADE • BRUSSELS • BUCHAREST • CAIRO • CALCUTTA • CARABLANCA • CHICAGO • COPENHAGEN • DAMASCUS • DELHI • DHAKRA • DOHA • DUBAI • FRANKFURT • GENEVE • ISTANBUL • JEDDAH • KARACHI • KUALA LUMPUR • KUWAIT • LARNACA • LONDON • MADRID • MONTREAL • MOSCOW • NEW YORK • PARIS • RIYADH • ROME • SAHAA • SINGAPORE • THIRPOLI • TUNIS • VIENNA



Nigel Lawson

Lawson, Walters rock Thatcher's economic boat

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party fended off calls for the resignation of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday after Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson quit, plunging the government into crisis.



Margaret Thatcher

Jordan and Tunisia push trade exchange

TUNIS (I.T.) — Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Innab had a meeting here with his Tunisian counterpart Al Munsef Bil'aid to review economic cooperation between the two countries and to examine means of boosting the volume of trade exchange between them in general.

Ways to promote the work and activities of the Jordanian and Tunisian trade centres in Tunis and Amman were discussed, according to a statement following the meeting. It said that the trade centres should be supported to help acquaint the public in Tunisia and Jordan with national products of each other.

Both ministers emphasised the need to increase exchange of visits by official and private sector delegations to Tunisia and Jordan to contribute to the ongoing efforts for promoting bilateral trade, the statement said.

According to the statement, a joint Jordanian-Tunisian economic committee is due to meet in Amman by the middle of the coming month under the co-chairmanship of both ministers to discuss ways of overcoming problems that impede trade between the two countries.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday October 26, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	100.2	101.3
U.S. dollar	627.0	633.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	447.5	446.9
Pound Sterling	1008.2	1018.3	Dutch guilder	301.6	304.6
Deutsche mark	340.5	343.9	Swedish crown	98.1	99.1
Swiss franc	388.9	392.6	Italian lira (for 100)	46.5	47.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	162.5	164.1

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Oct. 21-25	Oct. 14-18
Daily average	JD 1,492,154	JD 1,672,437
Total volume	JD 8,952,922	JD 8,362,187
Total shares	3,604,652	5,586,575
No. of contracts	4,989	4,794
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 5,604,244 (62.6%)	JD 5,240,503 (62.7%)
Financial	JD 2,474,741 (27.6%)	JD 1,681,780 (20.1%)
Service	(9.4%)	(16.2%)
Insurance	(0.4%)	(1.0%)
Share price index	131.6	130.6
No. of companies	60	60
Price movement (rise)	27	26
(decline)	23	28
(stable)	10	6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.5765/75	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1755/65	Canadian dollar
	1.8460/67	Deutsche marks
	2.0825/35	Dutch guilders
	1.6195/6205	Swiss francs
	38.72/75	Belgian francs
	6.2645/95	French francs
	1353/1354	Italian lire
	142.50/60	Japanese yen
	6.4050/4150	Swedish crowns
	6.8950/9050	Norwegian crowns
	7.1775/1875	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	371.80/372.30	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australian stocks ended sharply lower as market sentiment took a bearish turn and wiped out Thursday's gains. The All Ordinaries index finished 27.2 points down at 1,621.1.

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TOKYO — Profit-taking in large-capital domestic shares dragged the index to a lower close in very heavy turnover. The Nikkei index sank 151.20 points to 35,527.29.

HONG KONG — An early slide in share prices following Wall Street's steep decline Thursday gave way to lack of trading interest. The Hang Seng index recovered slightly from the day's low to close at 1,667.99, down 23.19 points.

SINGAPORE — The market closed weak, with prices falling across the board on widespread selling in this trading. The Straits Times industrial index shed 11.15 points to 1,319.27.

BOMBAY — Closed for holiday.

FRANKFURT — Prices ended mostly lower in moderate trading ahead of the weekend. Investors remained cautious in light of the continued uncertainty on Wall Street. The DAX index fell 19.69 to 1,462.93.

PARIS — Prices were 2.3 per cent lower at midday, with Wall Street's weakness again the main influence on prices.

LONDON — Share prices were just above the week's lows in afternoon trading, with many operators sidelined. Sterling weakness after the resignations of Nigel Lawson and government economic adviser Alan Walters stirred fears of higher U.K. base rates. At 1452 GMT the FTSE index was down 33.2 at 2,096.2.

NEW YORK — Stocks were pressured by disappointing earnings and London's fall. The Dow was down four at 2,610 in mid-morning.

Shares plummeted and sterling fell in early London trading, but was shored up by Bank of England intervention. Prices later stabilised, but traders said this could be in anticipation the government would raise interest rates.

Conservative Party Chairman Kenneth Baker denied the government was weakened by Lawson's resignation Thursday over a public dispute with Thatcher's economic adviser, Sir Alan Walters.

"She (Thatcher) has been in many difficulties and come through them successfully. There is not an economic crisis. The economy remains very strong," he said in a radio interview.

But markets in the Far East and Europe reflected uncertainty over one of the biggest crises in Thatcher's 10 years in office. The resignation of Lawson and of Walters two hours later hit the government as it grappled with severe economic problems.

Britain suffers worse inflation than most of its major Western competitors, its foreign trade is deeply in the red and its social and economic policies are under heavy fire. Most opinion polls place the opposition Labour Party some 10 percentage points ahead of the government.

Baker said John Major, moved hastily to the treasury from the foreign office, would continue Lawson's policies.

Labour Party finance spokesman John Smith described Thatcher's handling of the dispute, which exploded with publication of a Walters article in a U.S. magazine, as "staggeringly incompetent and inept."

Labour leader Neil Kinnock said Thatcher had failed to make clear whether she supported Lawson or Walters, who had publicly questioned the chancellor's aim of entering the European Monetary System (EMS).

"She is no longer fit to lead a government," he said.

Lawson's policy of steadily increasing interest rates to combat inflation has brought criticism from government supporters, many of whom borrowed heavily to buy homes when mortgage rates were half current levels.

Major, 46, who was Lawson's deputy at the treasury for the two years before moving to the foreign office, takes over with a reputation as an astute economic technician.

But commentators voiced doubts over whether he could stand up to Thatcher.

Lawson's departure came just hours after Thatcher backed his policies in parliament and only months after she had praised him as the most brilliant chancellor.

But relations between the two had been cooling rapidly as Lawson felt he was being undermined by Walters, who had Thatcher's ear and, according to news reports, had been denigrating Lawson's economic policies behind his back.

The long-standing row erupted in recent days when Walters said the EMS which Lawson was keen for Britain to join, was "half-baked."

Lawson then insisted that Thatcher should gag her confidential aide.

"The successful conduct of economic policy is possible only if there is — and is seen to be — full agreement between the prime minister and the chancellor of the exchequer," he wrote to her in his letter of resignation.

"Recent events have confirmed that this essential requirement cannot be satisfied so long as Alan Walters remains your personal economic adviser," he added.

Thatcher said she had accepted his resignation with "profound regret."

Jordan raises price of some tomato paste

AMMAN (Petra) — The price of locally-produced tomato paste have been amended, according to a decision issued Thursday by Supply Minister Ibrahim Ayyoub. The new prices are as follows:

Type of container Weight Price
Tomato paste in glass container 1100 grammes 780 fils
Tomato paste in glass container 700 grammes 530 fils
Other tomato paste in cans or glass containers remain under old prices set earlier.

The minister requested all tomato paste factories to abide by the Jordanian standards and specifications and to print the price and ingredients of the product in a well-readable form on the container.

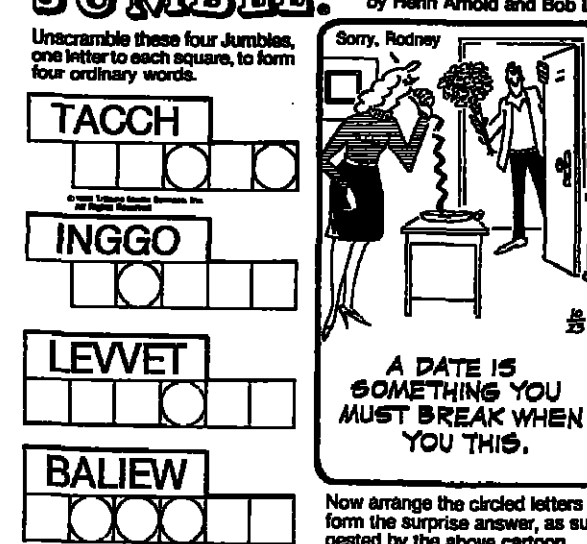
All violators will be subject to punishment, the decision stressed.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"My husband won't come near me when I'm wearing this perfume. I'll take ten bottles."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday | Jumble: OUTDO AISLE BABOON TIPTOE

Answer: Never lend money to this guy! — A "DEBT" BEAT

Financial hole haunts Holy See despite Vatican's austerity steps

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican was in debt by \$57 million last year but reduced its deficit by nearly \$9 million from the projected figure through austerity measures, a financial statement said Thursday.

A Canadian cardinal also reported that the Vatican, after resisting for five years, has agreed to open its books to public scrutiny, sending a copy of the Holy See's financial statement to every diocese in the world.

The new financial statement made no mention of this year's financial position but indicated that spending for computers and other modernising investments was heavy and that its daily newspaper and radio station were a drain on the treasury.

In March, the Vatican forecast a record \$78 million deficit for 1989.

The 1988 figures were released by the 12-member Council of Cardinals for the study of the Organisation and Economic Problem of the Holy See at the conclusion of three days of regular meetings.

It said the regular 1988 deficit amounted to \$43.5 million, based on revenue of 74.4 million and expenses of \$117.9 million. But it said extraordinary expenditures for its radio station and restoration of buildings increased the deficit to \$57.2 million.

Still, it was below the \$66 million forecast a year ago "thanks to efforts at austerity by various offices of the Holy See... to reduce expenses to the minimum."

The 1987 deficit was \$64 million.

Last year's shortfall was nearly covered by "Peter's pence," the annual offering from Catholics to the Pope, which totalled \$52.9 million.

The budget covers expenses for the Curia, or the church's central administration, Vatican radio, diplomatic missions and the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

It does not include the Vatican bank, whose statements still are secret, or the travels of Pope John Paul II, which the Vatican says are paid for by local churches.

The only specific offices listed were the radio, in the red by \$15.6 million, and the newspaper, with a \$5.2 million deficit.

One bright spot is the Vatican city-state, the equivalent of local government, which earns more

than it spends by providing services such as electricity, water and mail and running the Vatican museum.

Half of its \$13 million surplus went to meet the financial needs of the Holy See, the statement said.

Cardinal Gerald Carter of Toronto, a member of the economic commission, told Vatican radio the Holy See still is facing a financial crunch.

"Now that we say we covered our deficit this year, people are going to relax and say well that's fine. The Holy See is out of the hole. But we're not out of the hole. We're going to be in the exact same situation next year," he said during the interview.

Carter said outside accounts are examining the financial statement, which will then be distributed to dioceses.

Malaysia forecasts slower rate of growth

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia's economic growth rate will slow from 7.7 per cent in 1989 to 6.5 per cent in 1990, according to a government forecast related Friday.

The country's gross national product (GNP) is forecast to reach 71.81 ringgits (\$26.66 billion) in 1990, up from 67.4 billion ringgits (\$25.02 billion) in 1989, according to the Malaysian economic report, presented to parliament Friday by Finance Minister Daim Zaidin.

The report forecast that gross domestic product (GDP) would grow by 6.5 per cent or 75.91 billion ringgits (\$28.19 billion). In 1989 GDP grew 7.6 per cent to 71.29 billion ringgits (\$26.47 billion).

Treasury officials said one reason for the decline in the growth rate was the final in the price of some of Malaysia's exports such as natural rubber, palm oil, timber, cocoa, oil and other products.

The national government budget for 1990 was set at 32 billion ringgits (\$11.88 billion) compared to 29.1 billion ringgits (\$10.8 billion) in 1989.

Of this, development expenditures for new projects such as roads, housing and defence amounts to 7.85 billion ringgits (\$2.91 billion) in the 1990 budget, up from 5.4 billion ringgits (\$2 billion) for 1989.

Recurrent expenditures, such as salaries for the government workers, is set at 24.14 billion ringgits (\$8.96 billion) for 1990, only a small rise compared to the 2.36 billion ringgits (\$876.346 million) for 1989.

"Growth has been robust in the three years and the economy is expected to continue its growth momentum into the 1990s... the 1990s will present even greater challenges, given the trend of world trade and changing economic systems," Daim said.

"We have done well in the eighties, we should do better in the nineties," he said.



Daim Zaidin

Other key indicators in the report were:

Population in 1990 is forecast to reach 17.81 million compared to 17.37 million for 1989. The labour force is expected to rise to 7.04 million in 1990 compared to 6.83 million in 1989, with unemployment declining to 7.6 per cent in 1990 compared to 7.9 per cent in 1989.

Export growth is expected to slow from 20 per cent annually in 1989 to 12.4 per cent in 1990. Total imports for 1990 are forecast to reach 74.68 billion ringgits (\$27.73 billion), compared to 66.44 billion ringgits (\$24.67 billion) in 1989.

Important growth is also expected to slow from 33.3 per cent in 1989 to 15.1 per cent in 1990. Total imports for 1990 are forecast to reach 74.68 billion ringgits (\$27.73 billion), compared to 66.44 billion ringgits (\$24.67 billion) in 1989.

Per capita GNP is forecast to rise by 4.7 per cent to 5,733 ringgits (\$2,128) in 1990 compared to a rise of 8.1 per cent in 1989.

The official said, however, that Brady decided to go forward with the borrowing because he did not feel he had any choice given the failure of Congress to pass a higher debt ceiling.

U.S. may need \$17b emergency borrowing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury secretary Nicholas Brady announced Friday that the government may borrow \$17 billion on an emergency basis this week in order to avert an unprecedented default by the government.

Brady said that the emergency borrowing would enable the government to send out social security checks to 38.9 million retirees on September 30. Without the borrowed money, the government would not have enough cash left to cover the checks.

Treasury officials said they wouldn't need to borrow on an emergency basis if they get assurances the Senate will vote to raise the debt limit to \$3.1 trillion from \$2.87 trillion, as the House already has voted to do, before Tuesday.

With that increase, the money would be borrowed routinely later in the week. Without the increase in the debt limit, the treasury will need to arrange an emergency borrowing before Tuesday since the government's borrowing authority would drop back to \$2.8 trillion after that, and it would not have enough borrowing authority to raise the cash.

A Treasury official called the emergency borrowing unprecedented and said that it will end up costing the government through higher interest rates.

The official said, however, that Brady decided to go forward with the borrowing because he did not feel he had any choice given the failure of Congress to pass a higher debt ceiling.

The alternative, the official said, would have been an unprecedented default by the government on its obligations.

The emergency borrowing will only enable the government to scrape by until Nov. 7, when it will again run out of money.

Meanwhile the U.S. economy grew at a moderate annual rate of 2.5 per cent from July through September despite the poorest trade performance in six years and a \$4 billion income loss from hurricane Hugo, the government has reported.

The Commerce Department said the increase in the gross national product (GNP) the broadest measure of economic health, matched a 2.5 per cent rise in the April-June quarter. Third-quarter growth was aided primarily by a boom in consumer spending that resulted from heavy car sales.

Inflation showed a marked improvement in the third quarter, with a price index tied to the GNP climbing at an annual rate of just 2.9 per cent, down significantly from a 4.9 per cent annual advance in the first half of the year.

Through the first nine months of 1989, the economy has grown at an annual rate of 2.9 per cent, exactly on target with the White House's forecast for the whole year.

But many analysts are predicting that growth will slump dramatically in the final three months of this year in the absence of the auto sales boom that spurred consumer spending from July through September.

Chinese fund vexes bankers

PEKING (R) — China announced Friday it would set up a fund to repay its rising foreign debt, adding to fears among some foreign bankers the country could go the way of other Third World debtors and be unable to pay.

The People's Daily quoted Vice-Finance Minister Liu Zhongli as telling a conference of foreign bankers and businessmen China would set up a debt-servicing fund to ensure there was no problem in repaying its debts.

Foreign bankers wondered who would lend to the new fund and why it was necessary.

A Japanese banker asked: "Why does Liu need to reassure us about repayment unless there is a problem?"

"We do not see China as a good risk anymore," said a European banker. "It cannot repay the debts on its own. It must borrow more. But who is going to

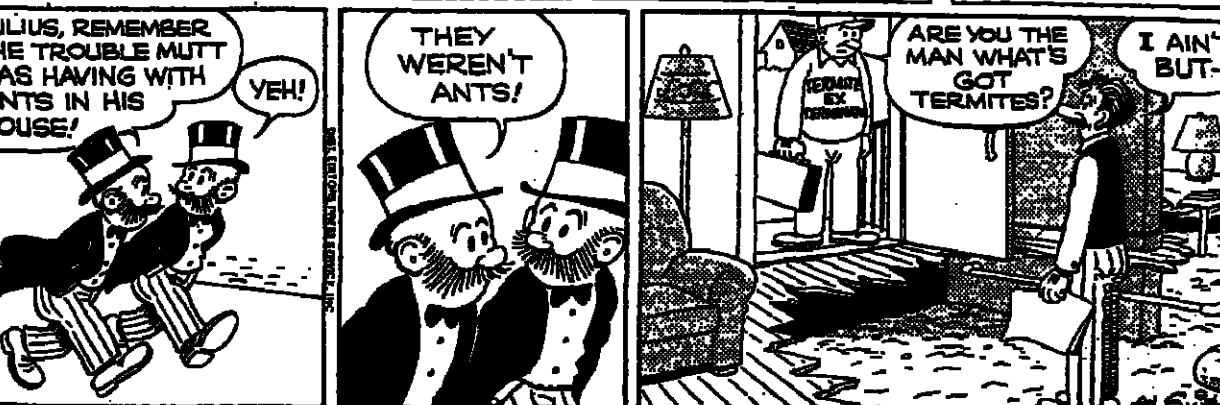
lend? Foreign banks are afraid China will become like Poland and Mexico and be unable to pay."

Detailed official figures released for the first time earlier this month showed China's debt had reached \$40 billion at the end of 1988, having grown 36 per cent a year since the end of 1985, when it was only \$15.8 billion.

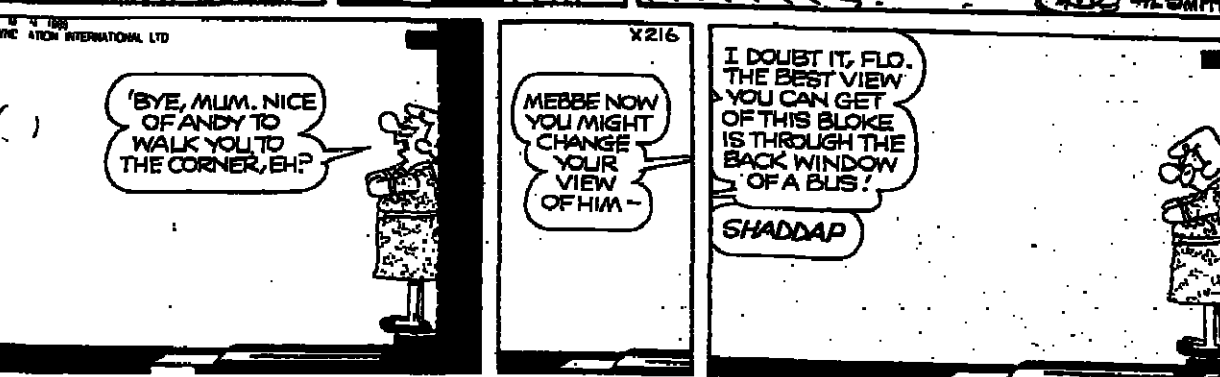
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



EC.championship:

Top seeds reach quarterfinals

ANTWERP, Belgium (AP) — U.S. defending champion John McEnroe, top-seeded Ivan Lendl and fellow Czech Miloslav Mečíř all struggled hard to reach the quarterfinals of the \$1,050,000 European Community championship.

Only American teen-ager Michael Chang, seeded fourth, breezed through his second round match, winning 6-1, 6-3 over Andres Gomez of Ecuador.

Quick on the baseline and accurate with his groundstrokes, Chang had no problems in gaining a quarterfinal match against Argentina's Alberto Mancini.

McEnroe, the number 2 seed, overcame a mediocre second set and had to fight to the end to beat

France's Henri Leconte 6-1, 3-6, 8-6.

Lendl won 7-5, 0-6, 6-2 against Soviet Andrei Chesnokov and Mečíř escaped against seventh-seeded Aaron Krickstein of the United States with a 5-7, 7-6, 6-0 victory.

In a spectacular two-hour match at the exhibition tournament, Lendl and Chesnokov produced great rallies, but the Soviet crumbled each time he had the opportunity to take over the match.

Lendl overcame problems with his deep ground strokes to produce brilliant shots when it counted to gain a quarterfinal against Austrian Horst Skoff. "Chesnokov always gives me

problems," Lendl said. "You produce three good shots and even then you're not sure of winning the point."

In the first set, Chesnokov kept track of the number 1 in the world until 5-5, but had to let Lendl go when he found no reply to the Czech's passag shots and services.

Lendl went into an uncharacteristic slump all through the second set, sending drives long and services into the net. He was "whitewashed," it was a total lack of discipline," he said.

In the deciding set, the early games were hotly contested but when Lendl broke to lead 3-1, Chesnokov lost hope and let the match slip away.

Sweden makes World Cup finals

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Just four months after taking one of its worst losses ever, Sweden has scored its biggest soccer triumph in years.

"But we shouldn't be satisfied just because we have clinched a ticket to Italy," said Swedish coach Olle Nordin. "Now we have to bend the bow. We must aim higher."

But these guys have proved that they can raise their game when it really counts.

Often a challenger in world and European qualifying tournaments this decade, Sweden finally made it to soccer's biggest showpiece by beating Poland 2-0 away Wednesday.

The victory gave the Swedes an unbeaten World Cup qualifying

campaign and made them champions of European group 2 one point ahead of England. Sweden drew England 0-0 in both games of the Round-Robin series.

Sweden has not qualified for the World Cup since the 1978 finals in Argentina, having missed the last two in Spain (1982) and Mexico (1986).

In addition, Sweden failed to reach the last three European championship tournaments. Now, Sweden will be in the next two major soccer events, being host of the next European tournament in 1992.

"There's no doubt that this was one of Swedish soccer's most important games ever," said Lennart Johansson, chairman of the Swedish Soccer Federation. "We've struggled throughout the 80s, missing the major tournament finals and league attendance has dropped."

Graf sweeps into quarterfinals

BRIGHTON, England (AP) — Top seed Steffi Graf used her powerful serve to overwhelm West German compatriot Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-0, 6-3 Thursday and advanced to the quarterfinals of a \$256,000 women's tournament.

Also advancing were second-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria, who defeated Judith Wiesner of Austria 7-6 (7-5), 6-1, and fourth seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, who beat compatriot Jana Pospisilova 6-3, 6-3. Other players moving into the

quarterfinals were fifth seed Hana Mandlikova of Australia, a 7-5, 6-3 winner over Italy's Laura Golarsa, and eighth seed Raffaella Reggi of Italy, who defeated American Katrina Adams 6-2, 6-2.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF © 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TAKE EVERY CHANCE

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 9
♥ 7 2
♦ K Q J 8 5
♣ 8 5 3
WEST
♠ 7 5 3
♥ 6 4
♦ 10 9 4
♣ J 10 9 7 4

EAST
♠ A J 10 8
♥ 9 5 3
♦ A 6 3
♣ A 6 2

SOUTH
♠ 6 4 2
♥ A K Q J 10 8
♦ 7 2
♣ K Q

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♥ Pass 2 ♦
Pass 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠. In the best of all worlds, you will always be able to make your contract if you choose the best line. Real life is not like that, unfortunately. On many occasions all you can do is make the best possible use of your assets, and hope the lie of the cards is favorable.

This deal featured a fascinating duel between declarer and his right-hand opponent. The four-heart contract was certainly reasonable

and, but for good defense, it would have been a pianola.

West led the jack of clubs. East rose with the ace and, realizing the threat posed by dummy's diamond suit, he attacked dummy's entries by making the fine return of the jack of spades, won by the queen. Declarer countered with an elegant thrust of his own.

He drew trumps, cashed the king of clubs and led a diamond to the jack. When West played his lowest card to show an odd number of cards in the suit, East, of course, held up. Declarer put his entry to dummy to good use—he ruffed a club. He had no way of knowing whether he would succeed in stripping East of the suit, but it was correct technique.

When declarer continued with a diamond, East was caught in an endgame. Forced to win the ace, he was down to nothing but spades and diamonds. The only thing he could do was cash the ace of spades to complete the defensive book, but that established dummy's king as the fulfilling trick. By taking advantage of a lucky distribution, declarer was able to hold his losers to the three side-suit aces.

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(3rd Precinct, Amman)

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- 4- Good command of English.

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- 1- B.Sc. in Marketing.
- 2- Excellent command of English.
- 3- Valid driving license.

Experience is an advantage.

C- Administrative Supervisor

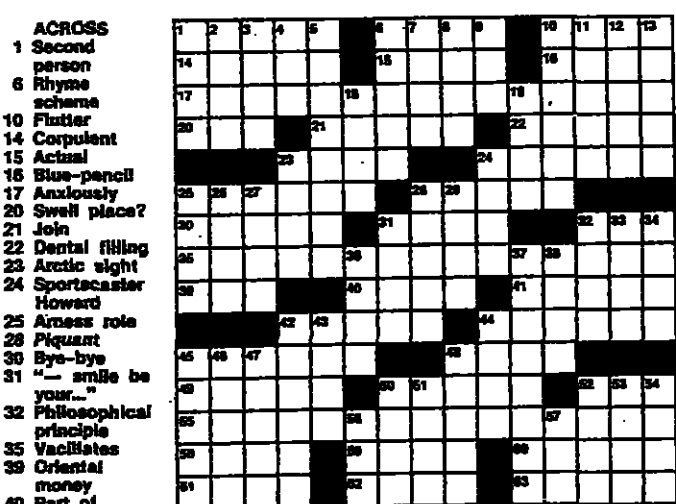
- 1- B.Sc. in Business Administration.
- 2- 2 years minimum experience in commercial administration and correspondence.
- 3- Excellent command of English.

Send your applications to: P.O. Box 6246, Amman, Jordan.

Include: 1- C.V. plus copies of University diplomas.
2- DETAILED description of work experience.
3- Full address and telephone number.

Last date to apply: 31-10-89.

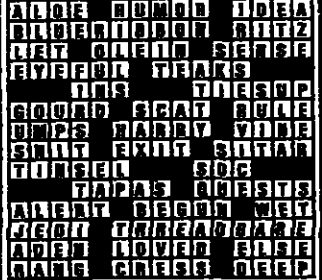
THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin



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- ACROSS
- 1 Second person
 - 6 Rhyme scheme
 - 10 Fluster
 - 14 Culpable
 - 15 Actual
 - 16 Blue-pencil
 - 17 Anxiously
 - 20 Sewer place?
 - 21 Join
 - 22 Dental filling
 - 23 Arctic sight
 - 24 Sportscaster
 - 25 Amass role
 - 28 Piquant
 - 30 Bye-bye
 - 31 "— and be your—"
 - 32 Philosophical principle
 - 35 Vacillates
 - 38 Oriental money
 - 40 Part of
 - 41 High flier
 - 42 What not to wash in
 - 44 Mavericks
 - 45 Concur
 - 48 Billed part
 - 49 Did the lawn
 - 50 City on the Sonja
 - 52 Mauna —
 - 53 Brag
 - 54 Milan money
 - 55 Middle East prince
 - 60 — cologne
 - 61 Vortex
 - 62 Decree
 - 63 Furnish
- DOWN
- 1 Escapes
 - 2 Acting award
 - 3 "I — man with seven—"
 - 4 Bat wood
 - 5 Vague
 - 6 Mr. Shaw
 - 7 Sugar source
 - 8 Called
 - 9 Clerical tunic
 - 10 Teeny—
 - 11 Alien—
 - 12 Crucial
 - 13 Kind of alcohol
 - 15 Presently
 - 19 Very funny person
 - 23 Spied
 - 24 Highland group
 - 25 Taps gently
 - 26 Suffering
 - 27 Lao
 - 28 — Hall U.
 - 29 — and (over)
 - 31 Isolated
 - 32 Roman wear
 - 33 Partner
 - 34 Pinder works
 - 36 Suggestion
 - 37 Prisoner
 - 38 Lug
 - 42 Room to expand
 - 43 —China
 - 44 Delay
 - 45 Saunter
 - 46 Firm
 - 47 Epse
 - 48 Slew of liquor
 - 50 Parity: perf.
 - 51 Burma, Japan etc.
 - 52 Strident
 - 53 Church calendar
 - 54 Once more
 - 56 Ornamental clock of old
 - 57 "Star Wars" Solo

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:



07/17/89

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Dustin Hoffman
Tom Cruise
in

RAIN MAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 9:00



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CONCORD

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GET HARRY

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

FAST
FORWARD

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.



Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

COCKTAIL

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30



Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

Dustin Hoffman
Tom Cruise
in

RAIN MAN

Performances: 4:00, 6:45, 9:30



E. Germany amnesties refugees, protesters

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East Germany declared an amnesty Friday for all people who have fled the country illegally and who have taken part in peaceful street demonstrations.

The Council of State, the country's highest constitutional organ, excluded from the amnesty anyone who had used force or called for the use of force in the protests which have rocked East Germany this month.

The amnesty announced by the official news agency ADN is the most concrete step towards appeasing East Germany's growing opposition movement that has been announced publicly since Egon Krenz took over as Communist Party chief Oct. 18.

ADN said that all of the prisoners covered by the amnesty would be freed by Nov. 30.

East Germany does not release official figures on the number of people held in prison, but Western sources say thousands are being held on escape charges.

The official announcement indicated the amnesty would also extend to dropping illegal border crossing notations from the records of the tens of thousands of East Germans who have fled to West Germany over the past few months.

That would allow the refugees to return to East Germany without facing criminal prosecution. ADN said the amnesty covered all people accused of border violations up to Friday.

The announcement came as the state-run media on Friday published several calls for the Communist Party to work to win back public trust, lost due to years of denying there were any problems in East Germany.

More than 120,000 people have fled East Germany this year for the West, both legally and illegally. About half of them have gained passage to West Germany by taking refuge in West German embassies in East European countries.

Police arrested hundreds of demonstrators in early October after clashes in East Berlin and the southern city of Dresden. Many were quickly released, but others were heavily fined and some are still in prison.

Hundreds of thousands of East Germans have demonstrated for reform this month in all big cities. The authorities have not used force to disperse them since October 8.

The Communist Party broke new ground Thursday by organizing talks with activists of New Forum, the largest opposition group with 26,000 signatories.

In East Berlin, the city's Communist Party chief, Guenter Schabowski, talked for two hours

Thursday with scientists Jens Reich and Sebastian Pflugbeil, founding members of New Forum.

Reich said after the meeting that the "talks were open and constructive."

"We presented New Forum's concepts and ideas," Reich said. Asked why they were invited by Schabowski, Reich said, "He told us he wanted to begin a new political course and wanted to learn about the whole political spectrum here."

Reich, a molecular biologist at East Berlin's Academy of Sciences, said Schabowski assured him that the government's newfound interest in dialogue to solve the nation's problems "was a real change and not a tactical move."

Reich said the subject of legally recognizing New Forum also was discussed, but that Schabowski told him he had no authority over the matter.

New Forum was banned by Communist authorities in September, but has been tolerated since then. It is not officially recognized by the government.

Krenz has pledged to open a dialogue with "all levels of society," even though he has rejected any talks with groups that question the Communist Party's leading role in the country.

New Forum is pressing for democratic change within the current Socialist system, and it has not attempted to become an active political party.



Workers connecting a crane before removing a damaged section of the San Francisco Bay Bridge hit in the Oct. 17 earthquake. The sector was taken to a dock for inspection.

Massive quake aid for California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A \$3.45-billion aid package has been approved to help northern California heal the wounds of a killer earthquake, as residents and businesses look to the emotional salve of a World Series and Halloween holiday.

President George Bush signed the aid bill just nine days after the 6.9 magnitude temblor rocked the area Oct. 17, killing at least 63 people and leaving an estimated 14,000 others homeless.

More than \$8 million in foreign aid also has poured in. Crews were starting to tear down some of the "red-tagged" buildings — those determined unsafe — and demolition went on at a two-kilometer stretch of Interstate 880 in Oakland.

But according to a study by leading scientists, chances are even better — 60 per cent — that the next catastrophic quake, a big one measuring 7.5 to 8.3, will occur by the year 2018 on the San Andreas fault in southern California.

The report also predicted a 30 per cent chance by 2018 for a magnitude 6.5 quake on the segment of the San Andreas that caused last week's quake.

For the first time since the quake, tolls were charged on the Golden Gate Bridge Thursday, partly because an average of \$107,300 a day had been lost and partly because the free ride seemed to encourage driving at a time when officials are trying to persuade people to use public transportation.

The quake closed the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and parts of several highways, including a collapsed section of Interstate 880.

Aid has come in many forms: The Red Cross has collected \$7 million.

More than \$8 million worth of foreign aid has poured into northern California.

Enough donated food has been stockpiled in Watsonville, a hard hit community south of San Francisco, to feed the whole city

of 27,000 for two months, the Salvation Army said.

And the 26 major league baseball teams pledged \$1.4 million for relief from the quake, which caused an estimated \$7.1 billion in damage.

The third game of baseball's World Series was set for Friday in quake-damaged Candlestick Park, and ushers were to carry flashlights just in case. Many say the game is a chance for the Bay area to show the world it is recovering, and perhaps give a boost to the hobbled tourism industry.

Police said six people remained unaccounted for, and the death toll held at 63, including 39 from the collapse of double-decked I-880. The search for more bodies was delayed because the road was too shaky.

Nearly 14,000 people were reported homeless. In Watsonville, hundreds of them still are camped in makeshift tent cities, though peo-

ple leave each morning for work in produce canneries, said city clerk Lorraine Washington. The downtown business district remains closed.

Landslides in the Santa Cruz mountains have claimed 100 houses and severely damaged 300, with many more at risk if there's much rain ahead, officials said.

But people also looked for lighter relief. San Franciscans were set to start Halloween celebrations this weekend, when the forecast was for sun and temperatures into the mid-70s (mid-20s Celsius).

Halloween is celebrated Oct. 31, the night before All Saints Day, with parties and masquerading.

"It was rather somber for a while," said J.S. Gilbert, general manager of the 10th annual Exotic Erotic Halloween Ball, where 10,000 people are expected Saturday night. Some of the proceeds will go to quake relief.

Medellin bomb kills 4 policemen, wounds 10

BOGOTA (Agencies) — A bomb exploded near a bus in Colombia's drug capital Medellin Thursday night, killing four policemen and injuring 10 others, and another bomb exploded in Bogota, police said.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Colombia's cocaine cartels have been blamed for a wave of killings and bombings around the country in the past two months in which over a dozen people have been killed.

Drug gangs declared war on the Colombian establishment after the government launched a nationwide crackdown on their underground trade Aug. 18.

Although police said 10 officers were injured in the Medellin attack, the worst since the latest violence began, radio reports put the number at over 20.

The RCN radio station quoted

witnesses as saying the Medellin bomb exploded beside the bus at 7 p.m. sending a hail of metal fragments into the vehicle. It said the device had been activated by remote control and not thrown as earlier reported.

After the explosion, gunmen opened fire from a passing car on the bus, which was carrying around 40 officers, the radio reports added.

Police said a five-kilogramme bomb had exploded in Bogota in front of a telephone company office but they could give no further information.

Earlier Thursday, two policemen were shot dead in Medellin, headquarters of the cocaine cartel of the same name.

Medellin is 260 kilometres northwest of Bogota.

Since mid-August, there have been 225 bombings and bomb attempts, leaving 51 dead and 218 injured.

"The latest attacks came a day after the country suffered its worst rebel violence in two years, with guerrillas storming two northeastern towns and slaying at least six people, according to army reports."

The government pressed ahead with the drug crackdown, notifying a purported member of the Medellin cocaine cartel he was being extradited to the United States.

According to TV Hoy, the government told Jose Rafael Abello Silva, 34, that he would be extradited.

Police have said Abello is the fourth most important figure in the cartel, in charge of its activities on Colombia's Atlantic coast.

Abello, also known by his nickname "The Monkey," was arrested Oct. 10 in Bogota and faces a charge in the United States of conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

Hocke leaves UNHCR in disgrace

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Jean-Pierre Hocke has resigned in disgrace and officials fear he leaves behind an agency too demoralized and weak to protect exiles seeking asylum.

The commissioner is officially responsible for at least 12 million refugees worldwide although there are many more than that number.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar accepted Hocke's resignation Thursday as allegations of financial impropriety, mismanagement and favoritism to Western donor nations continued to swirl about the departing commissioner.

Denmark's foreign minister had called for an investigation of Hocke's use of Danish UNHCR funds for first-class air

travel. Perez de Cuellar has received a report on Hocke's use of funds from U.N. auditors, but its conclusions have not been disclosed.

Part of Hocke's letter of resignation to Perez de Cuellar said:

"At a time when you have decided... to prolong and intensify an investigation which you initiated. I do not wish my presence at the head of HCR to complicate in any way the ongoing investigation."

Private refugee relief officials charged Hocke with bending to the restrictive asylum policies of donors such as the United States, West Germany and Japan when it should have been speaking out as a protector of refugees worldwide.

Western nations in general have adopted increasingly res-

trictive refugee policies, excluding economic refugees and accepting only those who can prove individual political persecution in the countries they are fleeing.

The U.S. State Department was the key to Hocke's successful 1986 candidacy to become high commissioner.

In January 1988, Hocke ordered the burning of all 138,000 copies of the agency's official monthly magazine "Refugees" because it contained an article critical of West Germany's refugee policy.

Hocke said the article was out of date and West Germany's policies were improving, but the "book burning" image engendered by the move greatly embarrassed Bonn.

A year ago, an internal report by the U.N. panel on discrimination and other grie-

vances savagely criticized Hocke's management practices. The report condemned the "personalisation and centralisation of authority around the high commissioner" as being part of the cause of "the rapidly growing management crisis" in UNHCR.

Hocke's staff was so demoralized that they began leaking documents to undermine him. U.N. officials have said privately. Among the leaked documents were the air travel expense reports that brought him down.

The Austrian executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, Gerald Hinterberger, was named officer in charge of the high commission until a successor to Hocke is nominated by Perez de Cuellar and endorsed by the General Assembly.

Supreme court upholds ban on Marcos body

MANILA (AP) — The supreme court Friday upheld President Corason Aquino's decision banning the return of Ferdinand Marcos' body, saying his remains would exert a "catalytic effect" to destabilize the government.

Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan said the court ruled 8-7 to reject a petition filed by Marcos supporters Oct. 2 asking that the former president's body and his immediate family be allowed to return from Hawaii, where he died in exile Sept. 28.

Aquino cited threats to national security in announcing the ban. But she said she would abide by

the decision of the supreme court. On Sept. 15, the court, also in an 8-7 decision, refused to allow Marcos to come home. His supporters hoped the court would reconsider since Marcos had died.

"The threats to the government, to which the return of the Marcos has been viewed to provide a catalytic effect, have not been shown to have ceased," eight of the 15 justices said in the majority opinion.

They cited recent statements by Marcos' widow, Imelda, that her husband remained the legiti-

mate president of the Philippines until his death.

"Instead of erasing fears as to the destabilization that will be caused by the return of the Marcoses, Mrs. Marcos reinforced the basis for the decision to bar their return when she called President Aquino illegal," the justices said.

In the dissenting opinion, Justice Abraham Sarmiento said the alleged threat posed by the Marcoses "is the realm of conjecture, speculation and imagination."

He and the six other dissenting justices said the military had offered no firm evidence that the

Marcoses pose a threat to national security.

"I am deeply concerned and greatly disturbed that with their decision banning a dead Marcos from burial in this country, they have passed an opportunity to defuse a constitutional crisis that... threatens to ignite an already divided nation," Sarmiento wrote.

Marcos' supporters argued that the ban violated the country's constitution and international human rights covenants. They asked that Imelda Marcos and the three Marcos children also be allowed to come home.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. senate approves death penalty

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Thursday approved a bill that would impose the death penalty on terrorists who kill Americans abroad. Senators voted 79 to 20 for the bill, which now goes to the House of Representatives for another vote. It would not become law until signed by President George Bush.

Two Gandhis to battle for parliament

NEW DELHI (AP) — Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of India's top independence leader, will oppose Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for a parliamentary seat in next month's national elections, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas K. Gandhi, was nominated by the opposition Janata Dal to contest the parliamentary seat representing Amethi, PTI said quoting a spokesman of the party. The two Gandhis are not related. Rajiv Gandhi is the grandson of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru. His surname comes from his father, Firoze Gandhi. Rajmohan Gandhi, 54, a writer, joined the Janatha Party earlier this month. He was an independent candidate in the 1980 elections and lost.

Japanese wins Britain's top literary prize

LONDON (AP) — Kazuo Ishiguro has won the 1989 Booker Prize, Britain's top literary prize, for his novel "The Remains of the Day." The prize is worth £20,000 (\$32,200). A statement announcing the award said the novel, a love story about a butler's English holiday, was "universally admired" by the judges. Ishiguro, 34, was born in Japan but educated in Britain, where he now makes his home. He was on the short list for the Booker Prize in 1986 for his novel "An Artist of the Floating World."

4th body found in search of farm

CHILLICOTHE, Missouri (AP) — A fourth body has been found after 2½ weeks of digging and searching near the farm of an elderly couple charged with conspiracy to steal cattle. The body of an unidentified man was found Wednesday evening in a shallow grave in a barn about five kilometres northeast of Ludlow, in northwestern Missouri. Three unidentified men were found 10 days earlier buried at a farm several kilometres away. The digging started Oct. 9 after Ray Copeland, 75, and his wife, Faye Copeland, 68, were arrested in the alleged cattle swindle. No charges have been filed in the four deaths. Authorities have not named the Copelands as murder suspects but have said they are searching for a number of transients who may have stayed with the Copelands.

Mir cosmonauts due back Feb. 19

MOSCOW (R) — Two Soviet cosmonauts on board the space station Mir are set to return to earth Feb. 19 after a mission plagued by technical problems, a Soviet newspaper said Thursday. The newspaper Sovetskaya Industriya said a 40-day delay in sending up new modules for the space station had been necessary in order to reduce the risk the modules would be lost altogether. But it said the mission would stick to its original schedule, with cosmonauts Alexander Viktorenko and Alexander Serebrov returning Feb. 19.

Safer shot for whooping cough in the making

WASHINGTON (R) — A team of Italian, American and Japanese researchers have announced that they have developed a promising candidate for a new, safer vaccine against whooping cough.

"All the animal studies have confirmed that the molecules we have identified are excellent vaccine candidates," said researchers Rino Rappelli of the Sclavo Research Centre in Siena, Italy.

Tests of the vaccine on human volunteers began Monday and early results should be known in "a couple of months," Rappelli said in a telephone interview from Siena.

Whooping cough kills an estimated one million children around the world.

Although a vaccine able to prevent it is widely available, the injection is not used in many parts of the world because it causes serious side effects in some children including brain damage and other nervous system complications.

The three-component DPT vaccine guards against diphtheria and tetanus as well as whooping, whose scientific name is "pertussis" because it is caused by a type of bacteria known as "bordetella pertussis."

Writing in Friday's Science magazine, scientists from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and the National Institute of Health in Tokyo as well as the Sclavo centre said they used genetic engineering techniques to produce a non-toxic version of the toxin, or chemical poison, produced by the "bordetella bacteria."

By Carey Goldberg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The KGB has abolished its Fifth Directorate, the section known for persecuting dissidents, and replaced it with a unit aimed more at stopping ethnic bloodshed and violent insurrections, according to the government newspaper Izvestia.

However, KGB Chairman Vladimir A. Kryuchkov told the newspaper that the new unit would still fight "anti-socialist elements... prevent mass disorders and other illegal phenomena of an extremist bent."

Kryuchkov, who in recent

months has tried to promote the image of a new, more open and law-abiding KGB, said the Fifth Directorate was founded in 1967 to fight "ideological sabotage."

He admitted it was guilty of "mistakes, shortcomings, and, unfortunately, abuses," but said they were partly due to poor laws.

Longtime dissident Yuri Mityunov said Thursday the Fifth Directorate functioned as ideological police.

"In its time, it punished people for telling political jokes," he said in a telephone interview, adding, "They're the people who are listening to us

now."

Western sources blame the Fifth Directorate for locking away dissidents in prisons and mental hospitals, clandestinely controlling religion in the Soviet Union, and persecuting those who sought to emigrate and other ethnic minorities pursuing nationalist activities.

Kryuchkov told Izvestia that although the new unit would still fight "anti-socialist elements," the definition of anti-Soviet crimes is narrower, the laws have changed and people do not have to fear a simple slip of the tongue.

"In and of themselves, thoughts and convictions, no

matter what they are, are not considered crimes if they are not realized in actions included in the law," he told Izvestia.

Mityunov said he was impressed by Kryuchkov's claims about the new unit and believes the KGB, while redistributing some of its functions, is still intent on harassing dissidents and even assassinating people it views as political threats.

Maverick lawmaker Boris N. Yeltsin told a foreign radio station last week that he was warned by the KGB that it could kill him at any time by stopping his heart with a special device.

COLUMN

Thieves take church wall away

CAMERINO, Italy (AP) — How does a thief steal a fresco? Why, take the wall away with it, of course. Police in this central Italian town reported that a 12th century fresco in an abandoned church vanished along with the wall on which it had been painted. Police said the thieves apparently acted with ease because the area is rural countryside with few people. The police were unable to immediately estimate the artistic or commercial value of the fresco.

Shaw's birthplace to become museum

DUBLIN, (AP) — Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw's birthplace will become a museum, said the group that bought the yellow brick house for 100,000 Irish pounds (\$160,000). Nora Lever, head of the Shaw Birthplace Museum Trust, said the group would restore the eight-room house near the centre of Dublin to the way it was when Shaw was born there in 1856. Shaw and his family lived in the house at 33 Synge Street for 10 years. "We are very, very pleased about the purchase," said Lever, whose grandfather went to school with Shaw. "We have been after the house for some time, and look forward to it becoming the basis of any appropriate permanent commemoration of one of Ireland's greatest literary sons in the city of his birth." The house went up for auction in Dublin last month, but failed to reach the reserve price set by the owners.

Growl at curbing dog meat delicacies

SEOUL (R) — South Koreans overwhelmingly oppose efforts to curb dog meat consumption just because it offends squeamish foreigners, according to a poll Friday. The Korea Herald reported that 81.9 per cent of those polled in the capital disapproved of the official campaign, launched before the 1988 Seoul Olympics, to drive dog soup restaurants out of tourist areas. The drive followed condemnation of the habit by international animal rights groups. It led merely to many dog-meat restaurants moving to back alleys behind euphemistic signboards proclaiming "nutritious food." More than 61 per cent of male respondents and one in four of the women polled said they enjoyed eating dog.

Warrant out for Grace Jones

KINGSTON (R) — A magistrate has ordered the arrest of Jamaican singer-actress Grace Jones when she failed to appear for the start of her trial on drug charges but he delayed execution of the warrant until Dec. 14. It was the seventh postponement of the trial in which Jones is to face charges she possessed a small quantity of cocaine. Police have not disclosed how much cocaine was found, but media reports put it at 0.18 gramme. Her lawyer Paul Ashley told magistrate Shirley Lewis that Jones had to travel to France to see her teenage son. Lewis instructed prosecutors to issue a warrant for her arrest and said it would be executed if she failed to show up for her next trial date of Dec. 14. Jones, 37, known for her striking hair and disco singing, was arrested April 8 at the home of singer-songwriter Chris Stanley after police found the cocaine wrapped in Jamaican two dollar notes in her handbag.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	°C	°F	Weather
AMSTERDAM	09	48	13 55 Cloudy
ATHENS	12	54	23 73 Clear
BAHRAIN	25	77	32 90 Clear
BANGKOK	28	79	34 93 Clear
Buenos Aires	11	52	22 72 Clear
CHICAGO	10	50	24 75 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	06	43	14 57 Clear
FRANKFURT	09	48	20 68 Clear
GENEVA	05	41	20 68 Clear
HONG KONG	25	77	27 81 Clear
ISTANBUL	12	54	19 66 Clear
LONDON	11	52	19 66 Clear
LOS ANGELES	12	53	23 74 Clear
MADRID	10	50	25 77 Clear
MECCA	29	73	40 104 Cloudy
MONTREAL	06	43	11 52 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	15	59	31 88 Clear
NEW YORK	11	51	25 77 Clear
PARIS	12	54	22 72 Clear
ROME	07	45	20 68 Clear
SYDNEY	19	66	22 72 Clear
TOKYO	15	59	27 81 Clear
VIENNA	08	48	20 68 Clear